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PART II.

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING THE

AFFAIRS OF ARABIA.

March and April 1905.

Printed for the use of the Foreign Office. August 1905.

CONFIDENTIAL.

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PART II.

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING THE

AFFAIRS OF ARABIA.

March and April 1905.

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ERRATA.

Page 32. For "Inclosure in No. 48," read "Inclosure in No. 45."

Page 56, No. 79, line 4. For "for Mr. Fitzmaurice," read "from Mr. Fitzmaurice."

CONFIDENTIALFurther Correspondence respecting the Affairs of
Arabia.

PART II.

No. 1.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received March 1.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Brodieck, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosures in a letter from the Foreign Secretary, Calcutta, dated the 26th January, relative to affairs in Arabia and the Persian Gulf.

India Office, February 28, 1905.

Inclosure 1 in No. 1.

Extract from the "Al-Ahram" of September 16, 1904.

ARABIA.

(From our Special Correspondent at Muscat.)

IT is now established that Ibn-i-Rashid has been defeated and Ibn-i-Saood has gained victory.

But the report about the death of Ibn-i-Rashid is false; also is the report of Ibn-i-Saood capturing six guns of the Turkish troops untrue. Ibn-i-Saood captured only one gun, while the remaining guns had been rendered useless by the Turkish troops. The most important thing is that the Sheikh of Koweit has given up his neutrality and has openly taken protection of the English. You have heard that Mubarak Ibn-i-Sabah sent a telegram to the Sublime Porte, intimating that if the Turkish troops did not abstain from helping Ibn-i-Rashid then he would assist Ibn-i-Saood, and seek protection of a foreign Power, who would protect him from all harm. He further added in the telegram that foreign Powers desire to extend their protection to the Arab Amirs, but the latter prefer to remain subjects of His Majesty the Sultan.

But the Sublime Porte did not send him a reply. Consequently, Mubarak sought protection of the English, who have been trying to gain this object for four years past.

On the 8th April, 1903, Mr. Balfour stated in the House of Commons that the Sheikh of Koweit had entered into special Agreements with the English. But the

Sheikh repudiated this statement and said that he was subject to the Sublime Porte. And now he has since two weeks openly renounced his allegiance to the Sultan, and has permitted a British Consul to reside at Koweit. The English have also established a post-office there, and the Consul is now endeavouring to open a small dispensary for the treatment of the poor Arab sick freely.

In this way the English have got their footing and flag fixed in Koweit, which is Turkish territory, by the consent of Sheikh Mubarak. Koweit is the key of Arabia in the Persian Gulf. It is key of Irak, and the territory between the two rivers, as the roads lead easily and without obstacles to the interior of Irak from Koweit. In addition to this, Mubarak is on friendly terms with the Sheikhs who reside along these roads. Mubarak has been helping all the Sheikhs for a distance of 500 miles, who broke out into rebellion, and he supplies them with arms and ammunition and other supplies they want. All that he requires comes from India, and if it were not for the help of Mubarak the said Arabs would not be able to rebel for want of supplies. Mail steamers call once a week at Koweit via Muscat; and the Koweit merchants ship every week hundreds of rifles and ammunition, &c., to Koweit. They have adopted a well-known practice, i.e., they write on the cases containing fire-arms "cases containing sweetmeats;" and these holding cartridges, "dried lime." The Customs officials at Muscat do not inquire about the contents of the cases, while the English officers, who last year made such a noise, when they found a Frenchman carrying six revolvers, shot their eyes when these cases are concerned.

The Customs officials at Bushire once opened one of these cases and found fifty rifles in it, and a large number of cartridges. But the English Consul came there and shut their mouths and pressed their hands, and prevented them from making further inspection of the cases, and the arms were restored to the owners, who took them over to Sheikh Mubarak.

Thus Ibn-i-Saoud obtains his arms from Koweit and the latter from the English; and so the English are the agents who supply the Arabs with arms.

I know as a fact that, had not the English made a present of four guns to Mubarak, the latter would not have been able to capture Doreida, which is a strong position and considered in Arabia to be invincible.

It is often that Mubarak has not to pay for these arms and ammunition, because if he had to do so, he would soon be reduced to poverty. A short time after this the English sent him a lakh of rupees.

The Arab rebels cannot find a better help. You may remember that Sheikh Sa'dun bin-Mansur, the Sheikh of the Muttadik tribe, attacked a detachment of Turkish troops in December last, and then raided the suburbs of Basorah. When he feared retribution he took refuge at Koweit, and remained under the protection of English guns. After a few months he returned to his place, but did not remain at peace. He plundered a Turkish Kafilah, and nothing was done to him. He is now residing in quiet and without any anxiety. The English have only one line of policy in this country, i.e., to incite the rulers to oppress the people, and then to offer aid to the oppressed people and gain their hearts. It were the English who pressed the Turkish Government to deal severely with Mubarak-bin-Sabar, to secure peace to the country, the commerce, and the Turkish and the English subjects. When the Sublime Porte acted in accordance with the advice given by the English and began to bring pressure on Sheikh Mubarak, then they offered to protect Mubarak from the danger, and the latter, with his tribesmen, placed himself under the British protection.

I warn the high officials of the Sublime Government, in a loud voice, to be careful about the intrigues of the English in Irak, because they are now casting greedy eyes upon that fertile land watered by two streams. Irak excels Egypt in fertility; and he who possesses this land gets hold of all commerce of the East from Anatolia, Arabia, India, the shores of China, Afghanistan, Tibet, Khiva, Burmah, and Siam.

The scheme of the English is greater than what you suppose and dream. If you allow things to go on as before you will see to-morrow that this young man, Ibn-i-Saoud, will become more important than necessary, and more serious than you think. Then make use of artifice and not force, and seek aid of the French and Russians, in order to defend yourselves against this aggression; nothing else will prevent their intrigues. The first step has been taken by them, but you should prevent them from taking the second, before it could be said, "the rent has increased beyond the ability of the mender."

(Signed) A. RAHIM.

October 5, 1904.

(Indorsed by the Foreign Department)

October 27, 1904.

A copy of the foregoing paper is forwarded to the Political Resident, Persian Gulf, for information and communication to the Political Agent, Muscat, with a view to his ascertaining, as far as possible, the source from which the article emanated.

Inclosure 2 in No. 1.

Major Grey to Government of India.

(Confidential.)

Muscat, November 22, 1904.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith, for your information, a copy of letter, dated the 22nd instant, which I have addressed to the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, Bushire.

Inclosure 3 in No. 1.

Major Grey to Major Cox.

Muscat, November 22, 1904.

I HAVE the honour to reply to your semi-official letter forwarding an extract from the journal "Al-Ahram," of Cairo, which had been sent to you by the Government of India in the Foreign Department with their indorsement dated the 27th ultimo, for an expression of opinion as to its authorship.

2. I have no doubt that M. Goguyer is responsible for the contents of the extract. My reasons for forming this opinion are:—

(1.) He possesses a knowledge of Koweit and Koweit affairs probably unequalled by any other non-official resident of Muscat.

(2.) The excessive anti-English bias which is noticeable in many of his former writings also appears in this article, and I know of no other person in Muscat who entertains such hatred of us.

(3.) The article clearly implies that arms are imported into Koweit by the English. M. Goguyer knows well that the (apparent) inconsistency of publicly forbidding and privately encouraging the importation of arms by us would be thoroughly understood by the natives in the present circumstances, and the manner in which the ideas are expressed in this extract bears the stamp of his ingenious manipulation.

(4.) It is possible that the writer's remarks concerning the conveyance of arms to Koweit by merchants in mail steamers are made in the hope of inducing action to be taken, which will leave the Koweit field in possession of those who send their consignments in dhows, as M. Goguyer does (vide my letter dated the 24th May last).

3. A copy of this letter will be forwarded to the Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department, Calcutta.

Inclosure 4 in No. 1.

Major Grey to Government of India.

(Confidential.)

Muscat, December 8, 1904.

I HAVE the honour to place before you briefly the position of affairs in Muscat as regards the arms trade.

I beg to invite a reference to paragraph 3 of Secret despatch dated 6th March, 1902, from the Government of India to the Secretary of State, and to ask whether it would not be possible to make another effort for the abolition of arms trade in Oman. My French colleague informed me recently that his Government had no intention of expelling Goguyer from Muscat, and the Sultan meanwhile makes the best of a bad job by being friendly with his old enemy. On the other hand, Goguyer, while he has apparently desisted from writing against His Highness (possibly in accordance with instructions received—side the inclosure to my letter dated the 28th June last), has by no means ceased his unfair and hostile criticism of our policy in the Persian Gulf and

elsewhere. His expulsion from Muscat would therefore appear to be more than ever desirable from our point of view.

4. However, the point to which I desire to invite attention at present is that no half-way position on our part is advisable as regards the arms trade in the present circumstances. Either we must move for its abolition, or we must, by supporting our merchants, render the presence of foreigners in Muscat as innocuous as possible to our commercial prospects generally. Were the latter course adopted, it might be possible not only to retain control over the traffic, but eventually to effect the removal of certain foreigners without the employment of compulsion.

Inclousure B in No. 1.

Government of India to Mr. Brodrick.

(Telegraphic.) P.

May 29, 1904.

NEJD. Your telegram dated the 25th May.

Position of Government of India in regard to Nejd affairs is stated in Secret letter of the 24th March last. Representation might be made to the Porte to effect that, so long as the Turks abstained from interference in affairs of Nejd, we also refrained from intervention; that we are in no way desirous of giving direct or indirect assistance to Bin Saoud; but that our interests in Eastern Arabia are such that intervention on behalf of one of the parties who are contending for supremacy in Nejd cannot be viewed by us with indifference, as tribes with which we have relations cannot but be affected by such intervention; that the relative rights of the two contending parties are so equal that, with a view to the avoidance of internal troubles, and in the interests of peace, the better course would be to leave both sides alone. Sir N. O'Connor might further point out that the Turks were unable in 1902 to prevent a filibustering expedition setting out against Koweit from Turkish territory, and that the support now being given to Ibn Rashid may strengthen him beyond Turkish powers of control, and that this might create a situation which could not be viewed with indifference by His Majesty's Government, having regard to our relations with the Sheikh of Koweit.

Our opinion as regards Sir N. O'Connor's views on the general political situation is as follows:—Our influence with the Sheikh of Koweit has increased concurrently with the success of his friend, Bin Saoud, and if, as a result of active intervention on our part for the purpose of preventing Mubarak from helping Bin Saoud, and of preventing the importation of arms, Turkish influence were allowed to determine the supremacy of the Turkish nominee against Bin Saoud, our prestige at Koweit must suffer materially, and it would probably, on the analogy of El Hassa in 1870, mean the absorption of Nejd by the Turks. The destruction of Sheikh Mubarak's influence would be a natural result of the supremacy of the Turks in Nejd, and possibly also an attack would follow upon the territory of Koweit, the limits of which towards the interior are not defined, from a direction not hitherto contemplated. In this way we might be compelled once more to render Mubarak active assistance against the Turks. This would, in our opinion, be open to greater objection than the re-establishment of the Wahabi dynasty, which is now not so much fanatical as territorial. We are unable, therefore, to accept the view that the success of Bin Saoud would imperil our authority at Koweit, or that we can preserve intact the territory of Koweit better than by preventing the Turks from intervening on behalf of Ibn Rashid.

As regards posting a Political Agent at Koweit, we entirely concur (*vide* my telegram of the 20th May). We are of opinion that wholesome effect upon Turkish attitude of mind might not improbably be produced by such action, and, if you approve, an officer will be selected immediately to fill the post.

As regards arms, no arrangements have been made with the Porte up to the present for the combined suppression of the traffic, and the importation of arms is proceeding briskly. It is thus not a case of authorizing the Sheikh of Koweit to import arms, or even of relaxing measures at present in force for the prevention of the traffic, but merely of letting matters remain as they are. Should the Turkish Government protest (and such a protest would involve an admission by them of our supremacy in Koweit that would be useful), we can offer to do our best to prevent the trade, if they on their part will refrain from interfering in affairs of Nejd, and will co-operate with us as suggested in our despatch of the 31st March, 1904.

No. 2.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received March 1.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Brodrick, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of an inclosure in a letter from the Foreign Secretary, Calcutta, dated the 2nd February, relative to the French Vice-Consul at Muscat.

India Office, February 23, 1905.

Inclousure in No. 2.

Major Grey to Government of India.

(Confidential.)

Muscat, January 14, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to make the following report for the information of the Government of India:—

2. Three days ago a rumour reached me that the French Vice-Consul and his Dragoman had made secret arrangements for travelling overland to Sur, and intended to start immediately. I referred the matter personally to His Highness the Sultan, who said that he had heard nothing of the project, but would write to inquire. This he did at once, and a reply was received in due course to the effect that my colleague had telegraphed to his Government for leave to proceed to Kurrachoo for a month's change of air, and that, should permission not be granted, he intended to visit Seeb or Basher in His Highness' dominions.

3. There is no doubt that M. Billecoq had made preparations for the overland journey to Sur, and that he would have slipped away quietly had he not been prevented by a severe attack of fever. Under advice from the Agency Surgeon he will now proceed to Kurrachoo, provided that a favourable reply to his application is received from Paris.

4. Although the few commercial cases (connected with M. Goguyer and others) in which I have had to employ the mediation of M. Billecoq have been readily and promptly settled, and my personal relations with him leave nothing to be desired, he loses no opportunity of slighting the Sultan, and I consider it to be highly advisable that he should be dissuaded from travelling in Oman until the question of protégés is finally decided. For the present the scheme is in abeyance, and His Highness, who agrees with me, will try to prevent its being carried into effect on M. Billecoq's return to Muscat. With this object, however, it is difficult for him to employ more than advice or persuasion in his present position.

5. A copy of this letter will be forwarded to the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, Bushire.

No. 3.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. Townley.

(No. 70.)

Foreign Office, March 1, 1905.

Sir,

I TOLD the Turkish Ambassador to-day that I had made inquiry into the complaints which he had addressed to me on the 25th December and the 7th January in regard to the conduct of certain British officers in the neighbourhood of Koweit. I found that the facts were as follows:—

1. The officers concerned never contemplated a visit to Nejd, and have abandoned their journey to El Hassa.

2. The visit to Nejd was also abandoned, and they have finally quitted Turkish Arabia.

3. The five vessels mentioned by the Turkish Government could only be the boats of the "Investigator."

4. The "British functionary" referred to must be either Major Knox or Mr. Gabriel, who visited Um Kasr, but the allegations as to their having incited the

[1317]

tribes were absolutely untrue. The officers in question were careful to hold no communication with them.

8. Sheikh Mubarak had never hoisted the British flag on any occasion whatever. A temporary survey flag might possibly have been mistaken for it.

I beg to inform the Turkish Government that His Majesty's Government felt bound to protest against the credence attached by the Turkish Government to every idle or exaggerated rumour which reached them from local officials on the shores of the Persian Gulf. I had invariably treated these remonstrances respectfully, and considerable trouble and expense had been incurred in investigating them. If, however, continued to receive similar groundless accusations, we should be obliged to put all representations of the kind on one side as unworthy of serious attention. I begged His Excellency to repeat what I had said to the Turkish Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANDOWNE

No. 4.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received March 3.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr Secretary Brodrick, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram to the Viceroy, dated the 24th ultimo, relative to the proposed Agreement with the Sheikh of El Kahr.

India Office, March 2, 1903.

Inclosure in No. 4.

Mr Brodrick to Government of India

(Telegraphic) P.

India Office, February 28, 1903.

EL KATR. Your telegram of the 30th December, 1901.

When there is a general sense of suspicion in the neighbourhood of Persian Gulf. It is proposed that our policy in this region should be referred shortly to the Defence Committee for examination. As regards 1901 Agreement with El Kahr Sheikh, it could only be made effective for the purpose in view by being given an interpretation considerably in excess of that which its actual terms would bear, and His Majesty's Government see no advantage in reviving it.

No. 5.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Londonderry.—(Received March 3.)

(No. 47.)

(Telegraphic) P.

Constantinople, March 3, 1903.

DELIMITATION of Aden frontier

With reference to telegram from Mr. Fitzmaurice of to-day's date, repeated to Secretary of State for India, I have approved action proposed by Mr Fitzmaurice, but have advised him to press the Commission to urge that Memorandum of the 11th August be accepted. I presume that the necessary instructions will be sent in time to His Majesty's ship "Perseus."

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No. 4A.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received March 3.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr Secretary Brodrick, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 24th ultimo, relative to the proposed Agreement with the Sheikh of El Kahr.

India Office, March 2, 1903.

Inclosure in No. 4A.

Government of India to Mr. Brodrick.

(Telegraphic) P.

February 28, 1903.

IN continuation of previous telegram of the 8th October last. We have decided to send balance of 3rd Battalion Rifle Brigade to Aden in consequence of disadvantages of retention detachments in India. Dhala garrison will be furnished by 3rd Battalion Rifle Brigade to take advantage of sanitarium for British troops. We are considering question whether wing native infantry regiment can be withdrawn from Aden.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received March 3.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr Secretary Brodrick, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram from Mr Fitzmaurice, dated the 3rd instant, relative to the Aden delimitation.

India Office, March 3, 1903.

Inclosure in No. 4A.

Mr. Fitzmaurice to Sir N. O'Connor

(Telegraphic) P.

March 3, 1903.

ADEN delimitation. No. 2

Would it be of assistance towards expediting settlement if I were to proceed on His Majesty's ship "Perseus," which is now here at Perim, to visit Turkish Commissioner at Turba? I might be able to get him to telegraph to the Porte urging that demands contained in Lord Lansdowne's despatch No. 41 of the 5th ultimo be accepted. "Perseus" leaves on the 5th instant, and instructions should reach her Commander before that date if my proposal is approved.

(Repeated to Viceroy, Foreign Department, and Secretary of State.)

Despatch of Lansdowne to Sir A.

No. 7

Foreign Office to Admiralty

Office, March 2, 1900

I AM directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to transmit to you herewith, to be laid before the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, copies of two telegrams on the subject of the "Perseus" mission.

Lords Commissioners will observe that Mr. Fitzmaurice suggests that a visit of this question might be hastened if he were able to visit the Turkish Commissioner at Turla in His Majesty's ship "Perseus," which is now at Perim. He urges that, if his suggestion is adopted, instructions may be sent to the Commander of the "Perseus" before he leaves Perim on the 5th instant.

It will be seen that His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople approves Mr. Fitzmaurice's proposal.

I am to request that you will move their Lordships to cause immediate instructions, in the sense suggested by Mr. Fitzmaurice, to be sent to the Commander of the "Perseus," should they see no objection.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON

No. 8

Mr. Tansley to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received March 6.)

(No. 130. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, February 28, 1900

IN continuation of my despatch No. 112 of the 11th instant, I have the honor to report that the state of the Yemen continues to give the Turkish Government the greatest concern. On the 20th instant the Mutesarrif of Taaz telegraphed that the Qaza of Yarim had been invaded by the rebels, and that Kataba and Ah were so closely besieged that there remained no hope of relieving them, whilst the communications between Taaz and Sana'a, which had been fitfully carried out of late via Mocha, were likely to be completely stopped.

The Mutesarrif of Hodeida has also telegraphed that the battalions of Hyeib, having refused to surrender, have been massacred by the troops of the Sultan. The troops in Sana'a itself are worn out after continuous fighting for five days, and have begun to flee.

A later telegram from the Assistant Vali of the Yemen and the Mutesarrif of Hodeida states that a letter has been received from the Commandant of Hyeib, stating that the garrison has eaten all their cattle and have no food, and that they must all perish unless relief arrives within two days, and the munitions there, consisting of four thousand rifles, and more than 1,000 cases of ammunition, will fall into the hands of the rebels.

It is probable that this letter took longer to reach Hodeida than the news of the capture of the garrison of Hyeib, and that the Commandant's fears have been justified.

A still later telegraphic report from Hodeida has been received from above-named officials, stating that the three companies of troops at Mansour of Ar, Caza of Haraz, have passed into the hands of the Emir of Haraz, and the Madir of the Canton, that the Caza of Anis is at present occupied by the Emir of Haraz, and are marching on T. here, as I have had the honour and may enter the territory troops to protect the frontier.

Great difficulties have been experienced in the 5th Army Corps dispatched to the Yemen between Maan and Akaba. The sea has been very unfavourable, and the intense drought experienced on the road has caused great mortality among the camels and other transport animals. Riza Pasha, proceeding to the Yemen to take command of the troops, has not yet been heard of at Akaba, where there is good reason to believe that the troops are in a

I have, &c.
(signed) WALTER TOWNLEY.

No 2

Letter to the Marquess of Londonderry.—(Recd)

N 48)
Telegraphic P.
Addn denunciation
Does your Lordship approve of my omitting fourth condition in your despatch No. 41 of the 7th ultimo? I am assured by the Turkish Government that no reference will be made to this point in their official reply to my representations.

Mr F Bertie to the Marquess of Londonderry.—(Received March 1)

N 49)
Paris, March 1, 1877
With reference to my telegram No. 11 of the 1st instant, I have the honour to send herewith to your Lordship a copy of a note from M. Delcassé on the subject of an Umpire for the Muscat Arbitration.

I have, &c.
(signed) FRANCIS BERTIE.

Enclosure in N

M. Delcassé to Sir F Bertie

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membres des délégués du Tribunal de
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No. 12*

India Office to Foreign Office — (Received March 7)

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA presents his compliments to the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Brodrick, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram from Mr. FitzMaurice, dated the 7th March, relative to the Aden delimitation.

India Office, March 7, 1905

Inclosure N

*Mr. FitzMaurice to India Office**March 7, 1905*

(Telegraphic.) P

ADEN delimitation

I have sent the following telegram No. 8, dated the 5th March, to British Embassy at Constantinople:

Unfavourable weather has set in to-day, and I am afraid may continue for some days. The instructions sent to His Majesty's ship "Perseus" and received to-day are contingent on state of monsoon.

[1517]

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J'ajoute que j'ai invité, sous la date du 1^{er} de ce mois, M. Paul Cambon à transmettre ces indications au Secrétaire d'Etat pour les Affaires Etrangères.

Agréé, &c.
(Signé) DELCASSE

No. 11

Admiralty to Foreign Office. — Received March 7.

cetera.

Sir,

Admiralty, March 4, 1905

WITH reference to your letter of the 3rd instant relative to the Aden delimitation, and requesting that His Majesty's ship "Perseus" should be directed to convey the British Commissioner to Turba to meet the Turkish Commissioner, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, copy of a telegram which has this day been sent to the Commanding Officer of the "Perseus," directing him to give effect to Lord Lansdowne's wishes.

I am, &c.
(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

Inclosure in No. 11

Admiralty to Officer Commanding His Majesty's ship "Perseus," Perim

(Telegraphic.)

Admiralty, March 4, 1905

HIS MAJESTY'S Government is desirous of sending British Commissioner, Aden delimitation, to visit Turkish Commissioner at Turba in order to hasten settlement. Arrange to convey him in "Perseus" to Turba and bring him back, but movements and questions of laying off Turba must depend on monsoon. If too strong service should be deferred until it has moderated. Commander-in-chief informed Acknowledged

No. 12

India Office to Foreign Office. — (Received March 7.)

THE Under Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Brodrick, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 6th March, relative to affairs at Bahrein.

India Office, March 7, 1905

Inclosure in No. 12

Government of India to Mr. Brodrick.

(Telegraphic.) P

March 6, 1905.

BAHREIN Resident in Persian Gulf transmits, on the 3rd instant, the following telegram dispatched from Bahrein on the 1st instant:—

Measures are now progressing satisfactorily, Sheikh having so far complied with demands as to render it unnecessary to commence actual hostilities. One ship remains for a time, but the other two will be able to leave in one or two days.

Information communicated to the naval authorities.

No. 13

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Connor

(No. 21)

(Telegraphic.) P

Foreign Office, March 7, 1905

Y^{ts} may omit point 4 of our demands in connection with the Aden frontier, as suggested in your telegram No. 49 of to-day. We have distinctly rejected any attempt to attach to the settlement any condition which limits our right to send troops into the nine cantons, and if the question is dropped by the Turks I do not think we need add to it.

No. 14

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received March 8.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Brodrick, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 7th March, relative to the Muscat arbitration.

India Office, March 7, 1905.

Inclosure in No. 14.

Government of India to Mr. Brodrick

(Telegraphic.) P

March 7, 1905

MUSCAT arbitration. Your telegrams of the 17th February and the 1st March. As regards points referred to in the last sentence of your telegram, a communication will be made to you direct by Resident in Persian Gulf, as well as by Government of India, at an early date. Meanwhile proposal of Foreign Office does not seem to me to be open to objection.

Repeated to Resident, Persian Gulf.

No. 15

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received March 8.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Brodrick, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 7th instant, relative to the affairs of South-West Arabia.

India Office, March 8, 1905

Inclosure in No. 15.

Government of India to Mr. Brodrick.

(Telegraphic.) P.

March 7, 1905.

ADEN

On the 24th February Bombay Government transmitted the following telegram, also dated the 24th February, from Resident at Aden:

"Report received from Officer Commanding at Dithala to the effect that force of Imam march upon Katata. Turkish Kaimakam is reported to be coming to Jalala with other refugees. Our relations with Imam are reported friendly at present, but difficulty arises as to Turkish refugees, and I request that I may receive instructions by telegraph how they are to be dealt with. Amir of Dithala objects to refugees going to Jalala, and suggests that they should go to Dithala instead. Jacob proposes that

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they should be sent either across to Mavia, which is situated west-south-west of Dithala, or else further south. I am taking steps to establish communication with Dithala by heliograph."

On the 25th February the Bombay Government telegraphed, with reference to the above, as follows:

"It seems important that orders should be sent to Resident to the effect that Kaimakam and other refugees from Katata should be received at Dithala, on behalf of the British Government, and well treated, and that they should be passed on from Dithala to Aden pending further instructions. Refugees must come to us, and not any of the tribes, to permit them to go elsewhere in our Protectorate seems most desirable."

"Political Officer at Dithala, while affording refuge to Kaimakam, and passing him on, can make it clear that we cannot allow our territory to be made base for operations against Imam. It is imperative that Imam should have no possible excuse for pursuing or attacking within the limits of our territory, and an intimation that our boundary must be respected should be conveyed to Imam by Resident, should circumstances appear to require it. We have instructed Resident, pending further orders, to act in accordance with the above telegram, which has been repeated to him."

Government of India propose to approve the orders which Bombay Government have issued. The latest report which has been received from Aden, in telegram dated the 28th February, states that only a few of Kaimakam's relations are proceeding to Aden at present, Kaimakam himself remaining at Katata, where, according to native reports, Turkish reinforcements are expected. Imam is reported to be at Yaman.

(Repeated to Government of Bombay.)

No. 16

*The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Connor.**Foreign Office, March 8, 1905.*

THE Turkish Ambassador communicated to me to-day a report to the following effect from the Governor of Nejd:—

Letters had been received from Bahrein by merchants of Alia, stating that, on the 1st of a German merchant who had been beaten by Ali Ahmed, nephew of Sheikh of Bahrein, and his men, two British ships had appeared at Bahrein, and their Commanders had demanded that the culprits should be immediately handed over to them. As Ali Ahmed had fled to Fitra, his men were delivered over to the Commanders, and were only set free after a severe beating, and the payment of a sum of 6,000 rupees.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) LANSDOWNE

No. 17

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Connor

(No. 5A.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, March 8, 1905

THE Turkish Ambassador made to me to-day a statement to the following effect:

The Vali of Bussorah had telegraphed that two British ships of war had arrived at Bahrein, and had anchored the one between Bussorah and Manama, the other opposite the latter place, at which the construction of a guard-house had been commenced.

As this locality was in the Sandjak of Nejd and formed an integral part of the Ottoman Empire, any encroachment would infringe the rights of the Imperial Government and would be contrary to Treaty.

Musurus Pasha was instructed to request that His Majesty's Government would give orders for the cessation of the works which had been commenced.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE

No. 16.

India Office to Foreign Office—(Received March 9)

Sir,

India Office, March 8, 1905

IN continuation of Sir H. Walspole's letter of the 18th ultimo, on the subject of the note from the French Ambassador of the 6th ultimo, regarding the British Case recently presented to The Hague Tribunal, I am directed by Mr. Secretary Brodrick to inform, for the information of the Marquess of Lansdowne, a copy of the reply of the Government of India to his telegram of the 17th ultimo.

It will be seen that the Government of India concur in Lord Lansdowne's proposed answer to M. Cambon.

I am, &c.
(Signed) A. GODLEY

Inclosure in No. 18.

Government of India to Mr. Brodrick

(Telegraphic.) P.

March 7, 1905

MUSCAT arbitration. Your telegram of the 17th February and the 1st March. As regards points referred to in the last sentence of your telegram, a communication will be made to you direct by Resident in Persian Gulf, as well as by Government of India, at an early date. Meanwhile proposal of Foreign Office does not seem to me to be open to objection.

Replied to Resident, Persian Gulf

No. 19.

India Office to Foreign Office—(Received March 9.)

Sir,

India Office, March 9, 1905

WITH reference to your letter of the 27th ultimo,* and previous letters forwarding reports on the progress of the usurpation in Yemen, I am directed by Mr. Secretary Brodrick to forward, for the information of the Marquess of Lansdowne, a copy of a telegram from the Viceroy,† reporting the orders which the Government of Bombay have issued to the Resident at Aden, in view of the probability that the Kaimakam of Kataba will be compelled to seek refuge in Amir territory.

Subject to Lord Lansdowne's concurrence, Mr. Brodrick proposes to approve these instructions.

I am, &c.
(Signed) A. GODLEY

* Forwarding Mr. Townley's telegram, No. 44

Acting Consul Monahan to Mr. Townley.—(Received at the Foreign Office, March 11.)

(No. 7.

Sir,

Bussorah, February 18, 1905

WITH reference to my despatches and telegrams respecting the affairs of Nejd and Kuwait, I have the honour to submit the following incomplete summary of my information.

The Turkish expedition of last summer and autumn in aid of Ibn Rashid into the Kasim district of Nejd seems to have failed entirely. It is common only here that not more than 700 Turkish soldiers now remain near Hail out of an original expeditionary force of about 2,000, and that there have not been many more in Nejd since the last engagement, that near Al Rusa of the 27th September, 1904. There would appear to have been a heavy loss from disease and desertion. Out of six guns, one was lost, and three more, recaptured from the Saoud, had, it seems, been damaged and made useless. A military informant said, early in December, that there were about 4,000 Turkish troops near Hail, which seems a monstrous exaggeration, to my the least of it. Perhaps some troops came from Medina, but I have no information about that. At any rate, it is certain that the Turkish troops have done nothing since the above-mentioned engagement. An apparent result of the failure was the fact that about the end of last October Fakri Pasha, Acting Vali of Bussorah, wrote, under instructions, no doubt, from Constantinople, a letter to Abd-ur-Rahman, the old father of the person commonly known as Ibn Saoud, in which he came and settle the affairs of Kasim in a friendly meeting. About the 1st of November a letter was received from Abd-ur-Rahman by the Vali Mukhlis Pasha. Informants who ought to know state that the letter was in the handwriting of Sheikh Mubarek's Secretary at Kuwait, which is 300 or 400 miles away from the place where Abd-ur-Rahman was. This is explained by supposing that the letter was sent with all speed from Kuwait for signature, or that the Sheikh of Kuwait had been intrusted with the seal of Abd-ur-Rahman. The letter consisted of professions of loyalty to the Sultan, and requests not to send troops to Kasim, because the people of Kasim would have none of Ibn Rashid, and there would be bloodshed. About the same time a telegram to the same effect to the Palace from Abd-ur-Rahman passed through Bussorah, and another to the same effect to the Palace from the Kaimakam of Kataba, Jasim-ibn-Than, who, though called Kaimakam, would appear to be almost independent, and to have become a friend of Ibn Saoud and Sheikh Mubarek though he was formerly their enemy.

About the middle of November Fak Pasha, Mutewarrif of Hasa, was dismissed from his post, in consequence perhaps of a telegram to the Vali, signed by a Colonel, who has now become Acting Mutewarrif of Hasa, three Majors, and the accountant of the Mutewarriflik, accusing him of facilitating the dispatch of arms and provisions to the Saoud, of sheltering his adherents, of exciting Ottoman soldiers and others to disloyalty, and of carrying on a correspondence with Ibn Saoud and Sheikh Mubarek and receiving their emissary. There is, I am told, no foundation for these charges, and they certainly appear not to have been brought home to Fak Pasha. He appears to have proved incapable as an administrator. He held an inquiry into the case of No. 3 of the 21st June, 1904, and sent reports which may have damaged Sayyed Tahir Pasha's position in Constantinople.

Since the beginning of last November, at any rate, Sheikh Mubarek seems to have been in open communication with Ibn Saoud and Abd-ur-Rahman. On the 21st of November he was in Bussorah, on a charge of giving information to Ibn Saoud. I cannot understand whether the specific charge is true or false. Two of them certainly a year ago used to give him information. One of these two is the Bussorah agent of one Shubayh in Nejd, who is a close personal and business friend of Sheikh Mubarek. The latter now complains, quite groundlessly, as I understand, that, in consequence of the cessation of Shubayh's business in Bussorah, he (Mubarek) is losing a large sum of money. Mubarek, I imagine, for some purpose of his own, wishes to excite our sympathy by such allegations of pecuniary loss.

It is surprising, and seems to indicate a desire on the Sultan's part to avoid bloodshed by peacefully garrisoning Kasim, that, while a large Turkish force is

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apparently marching from the Vilayet of Baghdad into Nejd, two, more or less friendly, though I believe quite inconclusive, meetings should just now, by order from Constantinople, have taken place in the Bassorah Vilayet between the Vali, Abd-rahman and the Sheikh of Koweit, who has now signed himself, in his telegram to the Vali, "Ruler of Koweit and Chief of its tribes," and has, in the first meeting as I have it from several sources, much displeased the Vali by his persistent assertion of its independent position.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. H. MONAHAN

P.S. I will send a further despatch by next mail.

No. 21

Sir E. Egerton to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received March 11)

No. 34
My Lord,

Rome, Mar. 4/5

With reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 9 of the 27th ultimo, I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a note which, after consultation with the French Ambassador, I have addressed to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and in which, in accordance with your Lordship's instructions, I asked his Excellency to submit to His Majesty the King of Italy the request of His Majesty's Government and of the French Government that His Majesty would be pleased to nominate an Umpire in the arbitration relative to the Muscat dhows flying the French flag.

A copy of the note addressed by M. Barrère to M. Tittoni is also inclosed.

I have, &c.

EDWIN H. EGERTON

Inclosure 1 in No. 21

Note communicated by Sir E. Egerton to Signor Tittoni

DIFFICULTIES as to the scope of the Anglo-French Declaration of the 10th March, 1882, in relation to the Muscat dhows navigating under the French flag having arisen, the Governments of the French Republic and of His Britannic Majesty have agreed that these questions shall be determined by reference to arbitration.

Sir E. Egerton has the honour to inclose herewith copy of the Agreement between the Governments of the 13th October, 1904.

It appears that the two Arbitrators named have not been able to agree upon an Umpire within the time specified, and consequently, in accordance with Article I of the Agreement, it becomes necessary to intrust that choice to His Majesty the King of Italy.

beg his Excellency the Royal Minister for Foreign Affairs to submit to the gracious assent of His Majesty the King of Italy the request of his Government, in concurrence with that of the Government of the French Republic, that His Majesty will be pleased to assist the conciliatory policy of the two Governments by conferring the favour on them of nominating an Umpire ("Sur-Arbitre"), as laid down in Article I of the inclosed Agreement.

Sir E. Egerton has the honour to renew to his Excellency M. Tittoni the assurance of his high consideration.

Rome, March 5, 1905.

Inclosure 2 in No. 21.

Note communicated by M. Barrère

Le Gouvernement de la République Française et le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique s'étant trouvés en désaccord sur le sens et la portée de la Déclaration Franco-Anglaise du 10 Mars, 1882, par rapport aux "bâtiments" de Muscat, dont copie est en-jointe, de remettre à la Cour Arbitrale de La Haye le règlement de cette difficulté.

Les deux Arbitres choisis à cet effet parmi les membres de la Cour Permanente d'Arbitrage, M. de Savornin-Lohman, Membre de la 3^e Chambre des États-Généraux d'Alsace, pour la France, et Mr. Melvill W. Fuller, Président de la Cour Suprême des États-Unis, pour la Grande-Bretagne, n'ont pu, dans le délai d'un mois qui leur a été accordé, s'entendre sur la nomination d'un Sur-Arbitre. Les Hautes Parties en cause ont donc résolu, d'un commun accord, en application de l'Article 1^{er} du Compromis, de confier à Sa Majesté le Roi d'Italie le soin de procéder à cette désignation.

L'Ambassadeur de la République a été chargé en conséquence de prier M. Tittoni, Ministre des Affaires Étrangères, de transmettre à Sa Majesté le désir ainsi formulé par les deux Gouvernements d'exprimer l'espoir que le Roi Victor Emmanuel voudra bien, en acceptant la nomination qui lui est offerte, l'associer à cette manifestation de la politique conciliante de la France et de la Grande-Bretagne.

M. Barrère saisit cette occasion pour renouveler à son Excellence M. Tittoni les assurances de sa haute considération.

Rome, le 5 Mars, 1905.

No. 22

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received March 11.)

No. 50

(Telegraphic.)

Constantinople, March 11, 1905.

DELIMITATION of Aden frontier

Have just concluded satisfactory arrangement for delimitation of southern frontier to Sheikh Mirad.

The Vali of the Yemen will be informed that Commission are to proceed with delimitation of Yaffa Canton in due course, this will ensure delimitation from Hana River north-east to the desert.

Does your Lordship approve of this arrangement? It covers the four places mentioned in your Lordship's despatch No. 41 of the 7th February, in so far as it may be proved that they belong to the Yaffa, and is substantially what we demand.

Instructions will be delayed pending my answer. I shall, therefore, be grateful for an early reply.

No. 23

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received March 13.)

No. 139.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, March 4, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith a copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Consul-General at Damascus, reporting the arrival at, and departure from, that town of further Ottoman troops destined for service in the Yemen.

I have, &c.

(Signed) N. R. O'CONNOR.

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Inclosure in No. 23

Consul-General Richards to Mr. Townley

(No. 19.)

Sir,

Damascus, February 21, 1905

WITH reference to my despatch No. 7 of the 7th instant, I am the honour to report the arrival here, and departure for the Yemen, of three battalions of the 1st Cavalry Division, which, as mentioned in my despatch under reference, left Damascus on the 11th instant, accompanied by Colonel Izzet Bey of the staff here, and other officers who will constitute the General's staff, for Mass and Akaba, en route for the Yemen.

With reference to a paragraph in my despatch No. 3 of the 11th ultimo, I am informed that the Emir Bey and Mustafa Bey, mentioned therein, have left Damascus for Beirut, on their way to Yambu, where, it is said, they will meet a Liva (Major-General) and a Colonel (names unknown), coming from Constantinople, with whom they will proceed to the Nejd, there to form the staff of Mushir Feiz.

So far as I know, nine battalions of troops, of whom five are Nizam and four are levies, have up to the present left for the Yemen. It is possible that still another

arrives to the same destination, but of this I have no certain knowledge.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. S. RICHARDS

No. 24

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received March 13.)

(No. 140.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, March 4, 1905

WITH reference to Mr. Townley's despatch No. 120 of the 16th ultimo, I have the honour to report that the Consul at Jerusalem, reporting the departure of five more battalions of Redifs for Akaba.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. B. O'CONNOR

Inclosure in No. 24

Consul Dickson to Mr. Townley.

(No. 7.)

Sir,

Jerusalem, February 15, 1905

WITH reference to my telegram of the 11th instant, I have the honour to report that three battalions of Redifs, which, as stated, they will embark for Yemen.

Three of these battalions started from Jerusalem, and were to proceed across the Jordan to be conveyed by the Damascus-Mecca railway as far as the line has been constructed, and were then to march to Akaba. They were accompanied by Ali Pasha, the Military Commandant of Jerusalem.

Two other battalions, which were levied in the district of Gaza, marched direct from that place to Akaba.

The levies were not yet properly clothed or armed, but I am informed that they will receive their full equipment on reaching Akaba.

The object, it appears, in dispatching these troops to the Yemen, is to prevent the Egyptian army, which would be a heavy charge on the Imperial Treasury.

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I have the honour to add that little is known here of the insurrectionary movement in Arabia, which has necessitated the calling out of such a large body of troops, but it is reported that the Wali of Yemen has been assassinated by the Arab tribes, after the siege and capture of the capital of the province.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN DICKSON

No. 25.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received March 13.)

(No. 154.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, March 7, 1905.

WITH reference to previous correspondence relative to the concentration of Turkish troops in the Yemen, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that I have this day received telegraphic information from His Majesty's Consul at Jeddah, to the effect that three large merchant vessels are leaving that port for Akaba, in order to transport thence 6,000 Turkish troops to Hodeidah.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. B. O'CONNOR

No. 26

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received March 13.)

(No. 157.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, March 8, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Colonel Maunsell, Military Attaché to the Embassy, respecting the progress of the Turkish expedition into Nejd from the Vilayet of Bagdad.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. B. O'CONNOR

Inclosure 1 in No. 26.

Lieutenant-Colonel Maunsell to Sir N. O'Connor

(No. 3.)

Sir,

Constantinople, March 7, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to report that in an interview with the War Minister, I learned that the expedition from Nejd into Nejd under the Mushir Feiz, was still on its way towards Hail, and he expected it would reach there the distance being reckoned as twenty-five days from Nejd to Hail, but he did not seem very sanguine about it, and would not say where Feiz Pasha was at present.

He hoped to be able to send an expedition from Medina to assist by attacking Ibn Saud from that side, as previously planned, but it had not yet left Medina. Feiz Pasha has taken seven battalions with him, and those with the four previously sent to assist Ibn Rashid, and which have suffered defeat, practically deplete the Vilayet of regular troops, as there are also the troops in Katar and Katif to be deducted.

The Redif battalions are not of much military value in that corps, and many of the battalions have never been formed.

Sadun Pasha and the various sections of the Muntlik Arabs are reported to show signs of restlessness again, and, in connection with this question, I beg to attach a list of tribes under his control and their fighting strength, which I have recently received from Mr. Monahan, at Bassorah. It will be noticed that Sadun Pasha and tribes

Mushir Feizi Pasha is now an old man, and rather wanting in energy, but he has had experience in dealing with a formidable enemy. He has suppressed with ruthless severity

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. MAUNSELL,
Military Attaché

Inclosure 2 in No. 26

Principal Tribes in Buwarah Vilayet.

I. The desert tribe from Amara to Kutal Amara.
Principal Sheikh, Ghadban, 15,000 horse, 10,000 foot. Directly under him are—

		Horse.	
1. Hassan-el-Jamil	} Brothers	2,000	
2. Muhammad-el-Jamil		1,500	
3. Ghadban		1,500	

Each of these three has under him a sub-tribe.

Not directly under him are the following sub-tribes:—

1. El Anar
2. El S.
3. El S.

Attached to Beni Lam is—

Half of Segwand tribe (the other half is Persian) living along the Lower Arabs Valley in Persia.

II. Al-bu Meloummed (marsh tribe from Amara to near Howiza on Persian frontier).

Principal Sheikh, Bahud, 3,000 camels, 8,000 foot.

Sub-tribes—

		Camels	
1. Hattin and Tach the three,	} Brothers	2,000	
2. Kaman and Zaban (brothers)		600	
3. El Fadan		1,300	

1. Sons.

III. Muntalik—

Feiz Pasha
Muzad Das
Muzad

All the above followers of these four P. are laden with Martini.

Attached to Muntalik—

Elah } In all about 4,000 horse, armed with 3
and all for the present attached to Fe.

The Ahl-ul-Jessir (see "Gazetteer" of Bagdad, Simla, 15-9, p. 129) are said to have been driven from the country by the Turkish Government about three years ago.

(Signed) J. H. MONAHAN,
Acting British Consul.

Buwarah, January 14, 1905

No. 27

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received March 13.)

(No. 158)

My Lord,

Constantinople, March 8, 1905.

WITH reference to Mr. Townley's despatch No. 130 of the 25th ultimo, I have the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch from Colonel Maunsell, Military Attaché to this Embassy, on the subject of military affairs in the Yemen, respecting which I discern considerable anxiety at the Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONNOR.

Inclosure in No. 27

Lieutenant-Colonel Maunsell to Sir N. O'Connor.

(No. 4)

Constantinople, March 7, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to report that in an interview with the War Minister to-day he appeared rather hopeful regarding the state of affairs in the Yemen. Sanaa was still besieged by the rebels, but the road from the coast up to Menakha was still open to the Turkish troops.

Menakha is an important position, a kind of rocky stronghold, on the road half-way between H. and S. and is now held by the Turkish troops, although the rebels were apparently able to drive them out for a short time.

The Turkish force at Menakha consists of 5,000 men and eight mountain batteries.

His expedition should have consisted of twenty-four Syrian battalions, now on the way; but owing to the urgency of relieving Sanaa, he was obliged to leave with what men he could collect, most of whom had arrived from Kundiya, where, since November 1903, the Adana Redif Brigade has been waiting on the coast to take part in an expedition in Asir, which never took place. It is a battalion of these men who were going to Hodeidah and forced the captain to take them back to Merina instead.

The War Minister mentioned that four battalions of the Syrian force are awaiting transports at Akaba and four more are on the railway at Maan ready to move down to Akaba.

After some considerable difficulty, transports have now been obtained, and three have left Jeddah for Akaba.

Urgent inquiries are also being made in Constantinople for vessels to carry flour and other food supplies with a small detachment of troops from here for Hodeidah, the supplies being very urgently needed.

Seven battalions (4,000 men) constitute the garrison now shut up in Sanaa, and the place is reported here to be in the last extremity, as also may be judged from the haste with which Ali Riza Pasha is pushing on his relief expedition. If his force should fail to reach the place in time, it also is in danger of being overwhelmed, as it is scarcely of sufficient strength, although much is hoped from the strong force of artillery which has been attached to it.

The main body of the Syrian force can only arrive in detachments from Akaba.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. MAUNSELL, Lieutenant-Colonel,
Military Attaché.

No. 28.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received March 13.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Brodrick, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram from Mr. Fitzmaurice, dated the 12th March, relative to the Aden delimitation

India Office, March 13, 1905

Inclosure in No. 28

Mr. Fitzmaurice to Sir N. O'Connor

WEATHER being favourable on the 11th instant, I proceeded in His Majesty's ship "Peregrine" to visit the Turkish Commissioner at Turba Fort. He tells me that he to-day dispatched an urgent telegram, not through the Vali, but direct to the British Government, and he begs that tenour of his telegram may be considered confidential. Message is to effect that British Commissioner, who came, contrary to his practice, in a man-of-war, had intimated that delay of Porte in agreeing to proposals of 11th August was causing vexation; that the moderate and friendly proposals were apparently not appreciated by the Ottoman Government, and that necessity of ending state of affairs which, if persisted in by that Government, might lead to cessation of the present negotiations, or their taking a turn less favourable to Turkey, had impressed itself on the British Government. The Commissioner's telegram, after recapitulating terms of the August Memorandum, expresses fear lest Turkish interests may be prejudiced by further delay, and surmises that my present visit may be prelude to measures of a more serious nature. (Repeated to Secretary of State for India, and Foreign Secretary, Calcutta.)

No. 29

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received March 13.)

(No. 51)
Constantinople, March 13, 1905
DELIMITATION of Aden
If His Majesty's ship "Peregrine" remain for a few days in the neighbourhood of Turba or Perim it would greatly assist me in obtaining settlement

No. 30.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Connor

(No. 21)
(Telegraphic.) P
Foreign Office, March 13, 1905.
THE acceptance of the arrangement of the Aden question as proposed in your telegram No. 50 of the 11th instant, is approved by His Majesty's Government

No. 30.

Foreign Office to India Office.

Sir,
Foreign Office, March 13, 1905.
I AM directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 28th ultimo, relative to the French Vice-Consul at Muscat.
It appears from that letter that His Majesty's Consul at Muscat, having heard of secret arrangements made by M. Billecoq to travel overland to Sur, brought the matter to the notice of the Sultan and the British Consul at Muscat, and that Major Grey's advice, is endeavouring to prevent M. Billecoq from undertaking this journey.
Lord Lansdowne is not aware that the relations of His Majesty's Government with the French Vice-Consul facilities for touring, which the British Representative would reasonably expect to receive as a matter of course. It seems to his Lordship that Major Grey's action will inevitably become known to the French Government, that it will be impossible to deny that he has interfered, and that His Majesty's Government will be placed in a very awkward position. It is therefore suggested that the British Representative should be more zealous than discreet.

I am, &c.
(Signed) E. GORST.

No. 31

India Office Foreign Office.—(Received March 14)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Brounck, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram from Mr. Fitzmaurice, dated the 14th March, relative to

the effect of the

N. 3.)

graphical P

March 14, 1905.

WITH reference to your Excellency's telegram No. 3, the only place near Turba which is practicable while present monsoon lasts is Sheikh Said; and that would seem to be excluded in view

of the effect likely to be produced at Constantinople by notification to Porte of the fact that, and the reason why, British warship is here at Perim the local effect of ship's arrival

Repealed to

Constantinople, March 14

With reference to
telegram No. 3
Turkish Consul
until I have
received it

His Majesty's

I am, Sir,

(Received March 14)

53)

graphical P

Constantinople, March 14, 1905

WITH reference to my telegram No. 51 of yesterday, respecting the copies of instructions sent to the authorities of Yemen (the prohibition of south, and north-eastern frontier has been sent in a note verbal)

It is unnecessary to detain "Persia" in view of satisfactory nature of these

No. 34

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Connor

(No. 25.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

YEMEN insurrection.

Foreign Office, March 11, 1905.

With reference to Mr. Townley's telegram No. 44 of the 25th ultimo, the Kalimukam of Kataba was shot at Kataba on the 28th ultimo, while the Imam was said to be at Yarim.

Instructions have been sent to the Resident at Aden to afford the any other refugees who may be compelled to take refuge in Amiri territory a reception on behalf of His Majesty's Government at Dhibala, and, pending further to pass them on to Aden.

It will, if necessary, be conveyed to Imam that our boundary must be ere must be no excuse for him to attack or pursue within our limits. Kalimukam will also be informed that territory cannot be made a base for any one against Imam.

Foreign Office to Aden

Foreign Office, March 14, 1905.

Sir,

WITH reference to your letter of the 11th instant, I am directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to transmit to you herewith, to be laid before the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, copies of two telegrams from His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople,* stating that it would be of great assistance to him in obtaining a settlement of the Aden frontier question if His Majesty's ship "Perseus" could remain in the neighbourhood of Tache or Porim for a few days.

I am to request that you will move the Lords Commissioners to cause orders to be sent to His Majesty's ship "Perseus" in the sense desired by Sir N. O'Connor, should they see no objection.

I am, &c
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON

No. 35

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received March 15.)

WITH reference to this Office letter of the 11th instant, the Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Brodrick, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 14th March, relative to the Muscat arbitration.

India Office, March 15, 1905.

Inclosure in No. 36.

Government of India to Mr. Brodrick

(Telegraphic.) P.

March 14, 1905.

MUSCAT arbitration. Your telegram of the 10th March.

Report has been called for at earliest possible date from Lorimer, who has just completed tour in Muscat and on pirate coast, in connection with Gazetteer. We are sending by next mail a copy of his preliminary précis, which contains exhaustive lists of authorities, besides other information. We will endeavour to send maps which are

* Nos. 29 and 32.

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required. In the meantime we would invite attention to the following papers bearing on the question of the limits of Oman:

1. Government of India letter dated the 2nd October, 1902, Secret, and its inclosures.

Administration Report, Bushire and Muscat, for the year 1876-79, p. 117.

Definition of Sultan's territories would, however, be attended by difficulties indicated in Government of India letter of the 23rd October, 1902, above cited; and we think it would be preferable, if possible, to avoid any discussion of the question at The Hague, if possible, on the ground that it is irrelevant to the issue before the Tribunal. It seems advisable that the territories of the Tribal Chiefs do not form part of the dominions of the Sultan of Muscat, and to refer in this connection to our Treaties with the Chiefs, most of which are anterior in date to the Anglo-French Declaration of 1862.

No. 37.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received March 15.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Brodrick, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram to the Viceroy, dated the 13th March, relative to the affairs of South-West Arabia.

India Office, March 15, 1905.

Inclosure in No. 37.

Mr. Brodrick to Government of India

(Telegraphic.) P.

India Office, March 15, 1905.

THE N. His Majesty's Government concur in the proposals, reported in your telegram of the 7th March, as to Turkish refugees.

No. 38.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Connor

(Telegraphic.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, March 15, 1905.

I CONGRATULATE you on the success of your negotiations as reported in telegram No. 53 of yesterday.

I ordered the Admiralty that the instructions which had been issued to His Majesty's ship "Perseus" to remain in the vicinity of Aden may now be cancelled.

No. 39.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. Cambon.

Your Excellency,

Foreign Office, March 15, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your note of the 6th ultimo on the subject of the Arbitration now pending before The Hague Tribunal in regard to the Muscat diox.

Your Excellency states that the French Government have observed with some surprise that the British Case is stated to be presented in the name of the Sultan of Muscat as well as in that of His Majesty's Government; and you add that the French Government are unable to agree to the introduction of the name of His Highness as one of the parties to the discussion which is about to take place before the Tribunal.

I would ask your Excellency to point out to the French Government that the terms of the Compromis signed on the 13th October last distinctly indicate that the

Sultan of Muscat is the party primarily interested in the solution of the questions at

Has H. "Lues" _____ right to be heard on the subject, either by _____ by intrusting his interests to the care of an _____

His Majesty's Government will be prepared to maintain and to prove by documentary evidence that the Sultan has elected to commit his cause to their care, of his own free will, and not, as is implied in the case presented by the French Government, in consequence of any pressure put upon him by the British authorities.

It was for these reasons that His Majesty's Government considered that the various proposals which they have put forward should be presented in the House of Commons as well as in their own

They do not, however, regard it as essential that the name of His Highness should appear of the plain Gs in the suit, and they will, in deference to the

His Majesty's Government
and of this reply to the Tribunal.

I have, &c.
Signed) LANDDOWN

A Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Connor

Κοιμητή Ομήσε, Μάρτι 1

Left Turk on Wed a sailor told me to day with re-
 m on the 20th went to the bar buoy which was
 crews of the 10th and 11th regts 1 British ship which

LANSDOWNE

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir H. Bertie

(No. 117A)

11

Foreign Office, March 13, 1904

The French Minister stated to-day that according to the information received by the French Government, Chief Justice Melville Fuller, the Arbitrator appointed by His Majesty's Government in the Mowat Arbitration, was totally unacquainted with the French language.

M. Delmasé was prepared, in order to facilitate the course of the pleadings before the Tribunal at The Hague, and for the convenience of the Representative chosen by His Majesty's Government, to agree to the use of the English and French languages concurrently. The concession was not, however, to be understood as creating a precedent.

LA NICHOWNE

No. 42.

Foreign Office to India Office.

Fig.

Foreign Office, March 15

I HAVE laid before the Marquess of Lansdowne your letter of the 5th respecting the insurrection in the Yemen and the orders which the Government of

Bombay have issued to the Resident at Aden, in view of the probability that the Kaimakam of Kistaba will be compelled to seek refuge in Amari territory.

Lord Lansdowne concurs with the Secretary of State for India in approving the instructions issued to the Resident.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON

No. 43

Foreign Office to Admiralty.

512.

Mission Office, March 15, 1908

WIFI reference to my letter of yesterday's date, I am directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to transmit to you herewith copy of a further telegram from His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople,* stating that the Porte have issued satisfactory instructions with regard to the detention of the vessel in question and that it is therefore unnecessary to detain His Majesty's ship "Porpoise" in the neighbourhood of Turkey or Persia.

In the circumstances I am to request that the orders which it was proposed to send to His Majesty's ship "Porpoise" may be suspended.

(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON

44

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received March

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Hodgson forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of an interview in a letter from the Foreign Secretary, Calcutta, dated the 6th February, relative to the Indian Customs.

India Office, March 15, 1905

Enclosure 1 in No. 44

Major Cor to Government of India

Unkown December 17, 1904.

WITH reference to the despatch to the Secretary of State for India, of which a copy was received with Foreign Department indentment dated the 11th inst., I have the honour to forward a copy with inclosure of a communication from Captain Pridemore on the subject of the Balaram Customs Farm.

2. I submit it especially at this juncture in order that the Government of India may have the latest information on this subject at hand for parallel consideration with other reports on Bahrain affairs submitted by the same mail under Residency, dated 17th December, 1904.

3. Captain Pridonux' observations at the end of paragraph of his covering letter need some comment.

Sheikh Isa did actually address a letter to Colonel Meade, on the 4th February, 1899, which I note that the latter considered to embody a promise that "he (Sheikh Isa) would consult the Resident as to the future arrangements to be made." I have no doubt the Chief gave Colonel Meade a verbal undertaking to that effect, but so

much cannot be got out of the Arabic passage itself, which is worded ambiguously, and literally translated runs as follows:—

"Please God after the expiry of the period above mentioned, and at unanimity of opinion, we, your friend, will explain to you regarding it."

It is not clear whether the "unanimity of opinion" points to Resident or to the Sheikh's relations.

Enclosure 2 in No. 44

Captain Prideaux to Major Cox.

Bahrain, December 1, 1904.

WITH reference to the correspondence ending with this letter of February, 1904, I have the honour to inclose for your information which have passed between the Chief of Bahrain and myself, and the Bunnials who now hold the customs farm on the subject of the reformation of the system of customs administration.

2 I believe that the Chief of Bahrain and his family are in dread lest the Government of India propose to take the customs on the same terms as Zanzibar with the attendant consequences of the liberation of slaves.

With regard to my verbal conversation with Sheikh Isa on the subject of the customs, I regret to state that the Chief vehemently declared to me that he had never intended before renewing the lease of his customs again, and he asked me whether I could produce any document disproving this assumption.

There can be no doubt that the Chief's statement is untrue, but I think we have only the reports of three of our British officers to prove the contrary, and I promise in writing down exact.

1 As however, the Chief has now acceded in writing that he intends to administer the customs himself on the conclusion of the Bunnials' lease, I have not thought it necessary at present, in view of my recent arrival in Bahrain, to press him further in this matter. I look upon it as unfortunate that I should have had to deal on this subject so soon, but my hand was forced by the fact that the Chief had hinted at being prepared to lend him more money on a further renewal of their lease before the commencement of Ramzan.

Enclosure 3 in No. 44

Captain Prideaux to Sheikh Isa-bin-Ali

Bahrain, October 26, 1904.

YOU have asked me, in connection with our conversation of this morning to write to you on the subject of the wish of the Government of India, that the customs administration in Bahrain should be placed on the modern European system, such as has been introduced with great advantage into so many Asian States—Persia, China, Korea, Siam, and Japan—of late years.

2 My Government believe that, if you take this step, the revenue you pay from the Customs Department will be at least double the amount which it is now. It is not desired that you should suffer the slightest loss either of dignity or of income, and the Government are confident that on your accepting their advice both your authority over the people of Bahrain—tribesmen as well as townsmen—and your wealth and comfort will men.

3 You are not asked to hand over the administration of the customs to the Government of India, nor to promise always to employ a British officer, only urged to give the European system a trial, and, as none of your subjects has knowledge of that system, to borrow for the introduction of it, temporarily, an official from India who shall have had a training in customs work.

4 I can assure you that all the profits reaped will be handed over to you direct by the Customs Superintendent, and that this agency has no desire that any of the money should pass through its office.

I regard to your indebtedness to the present Hindu farmers of the customs, I hope you will give me a clear statement, and I am confident that the Government of India will authorize me to negotiate a settlement with them, satisfactory both to yourself and the Bunnials, and, if need be, the Government will sanction my making you an immediate advance of money to preserve you from inconvenience, whilst the new arrangements are taking shape.

6 I am looking forward to a reply from you which shall give a further proof of your friendly sentiments towards my Government, and of your readiness to trust in the wisdom of its advice.

Enclosure 4 in No. 44

Sheikh Isa-bin-Ali to Captain Prideaux

Shabab, 1322 October 30, 1904.

I RECEIVED your letter dated the 26th October 1904 the contents of which I understood, and I thank you for the advice you gave me therein.

Regarding the subject of the Bahrain customs administration I beg to say that, as soon as the present contract with the Bunnials expires I shall appoint my own men to administer the customs, and shall not again lease the same to Bunnials.

Enclosure 5 in No. 44

Captain Prideaux to Sheikh Isa-bin-Ali

Bahrain, October 31, 1904.

I HAVE received your letter dated the 30th October, 1904 (20th Shabab, 1322), and am glad to hear that you do not again intend to farm out your customs.

2 For the reasons mentioned in my letter of the 26th October, 1904 (10th Shabab, 1322), I am sorry that you do not at present propose to recover the sovereign rights over the customs which you have transferred to the Bunnials, and I am hopeful that, before the existing leases expire, you will have recognized the advisability of following the course recommended to you by the Government of India.

Enclosure 6 in No. 44

Captain Prideaux to Customs Officers

Bahrain, October 31, 1904.

WITH reference to our conversation of the 17th and 25th October, 1904, on the subject of the leases of the 4 per cent, and 1 per cent, customs duties which you held from the Sheikh of Bahrain up to the 7th January, 1908 (30th Zulkadd, 1325), and 10th April, 1908 (8th Safar, 1324), respectively when you informed me that Sheikh Isa was again in want of a further advance of money, and you consulted me on the propriety of acceding to his request, I have thought it advisable to repeat in writing what I then told you—viz., that the Government of India have hopes that the Chief of Bahrain will, in the near future, reform his system of customs administration, and appoint for the term of an official to introduce the desirable

these circumstances, while the Government will give you all due support in your existing transactions with the Chief, you must not expect that they will further regard your claims if you persist in negotiating for another renewal of your farm of the customs. I am now further able to inform you that Sheikh Isa has recently written to me that he will not again allow his customs to be farmed out after the expiry of the present leases.

An early acknowledgment of this letter is requested.

Inclosure 7 in No. 44.

Customs Farmers to Captain Prideaux

Bahrain, November 1, 1904

WE acknowledge the receipt of your letter of yesterday's date, and beg to state that whatever transactions regarding customs have been made before this you are well aware of, and after this we will not make any transactions with the She without your permission and knowledge

No. 45

India Office to Foreign Office (Received Mar

1111 Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Secretary of State, copy of

(Telegraphic.) P.

ADEN Station

I have received the following telegram, No. 6 dated the 16th March

I am sending you by mail of the 21st instant a copy of the instruction the Turkish Government on the 13th

eat the following

to be informed whether in your Excellency's telegram No Four line on territory and the boundary I wait the copy of instructions which immediately instructions reach the standing boundary to Sheikh Mirad and sign accordingly Ha this?

"I presume instructions mentioned in your Excellency's telegram No 6 were communicated to Turkish Commissioner by telegraph
"I am repeating this telegram to the Secretary of State for India and the Viceroy

No. 46

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received March 17

(No. 159. Cypher despatch.) P

My Lord,

Constantinople, March 18, 1905

I HAVE received the following telegram from His Majesty's Consul at Bussorah, No. 19, of the 12th instant —

"Canident al Meet Sheikh of Koweit and Ibn Saoud's father My telegram No. 17 of the

No. 44

Sir A. Hardinge to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received March 16.)

(No. 33.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Tehran, March 16, 1905.

STATUS of Koweit Arabs in Persia. Your telegrams Nos. 7 and 17 of the 9th and 24th ultimo.

Following telegram repeated to India:—

"I hear from M. Naus that instructions given to Customs officials were due to orders issued by Muahir-ed-Dowleh, to whom I spoke in sense of your instructions. He informed me that the Porte had protested against our Resident at Bushire interfering in Koweit cases, and that he himself had made inquiries through the Persian Embassy at Constantinople. As a result, the above action had been taken. However, he seemed ready to admit that, *de facto*, Koweit was independent of Turkey, and when I proposed that Koweit subjects should be treated on the same lines as Afghans in Persia, he promised to submit the matter to the Shah. He asked me what view other Powers took of the status of Koweit, which makes me think that, before replying to me definitely, he may consult other, e.g., the French and German, Representatives here. I avoid answering this question directly"

"I believe the following information to be correct

"Vali proposed to Sherik in second meeting that some Ottoman troops, a post-sanitary office, should be established in Kuwait. This was refused by the Sherik. The Vali sent a letter to the Sherik on the 14th February telling him to accept proposals (meaning probably these verbal ones) and to stop foreign influence. Vali also wrote to Ibn Saud's father telling him to offer his submission to the Mushir, and that all would be well if he did this.

Vali has received a reply from Ibn Saud's father asking that a letter of to the Mushir may be sent him. The Sherik has not replied.

I have, &c
(Signed) N. R. O'CONNOR

No. 17

Cons. Message to Mr. Townley.—(Received at Foreign Office, M)

(No. 6 Confidential)

Sir,

Bussorah, February

WITH reference to my despatch No. 7 of the Nejd and Kuwait, I have the honour to report further what follows.

As to the expedition of last summer and autumn, my military informant now that he was mistaken in his statement that in December there were 4,000 Turkish men still near Hail. He says that the real number was about 2,000. That the expedition consisted of exactly that number of infantry, 500 for Hail, 1,500 each with six guns; that only about 800 men were lost and that some reinforcements had probably come from Medina.

I give his statements merely for what they may be worth. According to what is generally believed here they are not truthful. The impression here still is that only 100 or 200 men were left near Hail, and nothing appears to be known of reinforcements from Medina.

As to the numbers of the expedition which is now on its way to, or has already arrived at, Kasim (the district of Anaysa, Horeyda, and Al Ruwa), I have no precise information; they have perhaps been reported.

The following telegram, dated the 1st January, 1905, was sent by the Mushir Nejd to the Vali, Bussorah:

Sixteen battalions are being collected at Nejd. Eight battalions are now being sent on the expedition to provide for the needs of those eight before they move. Month's pay is to be given to each according to the Imperial Order of the 1st December, and special bills or orders for payment are being sent to the Bussorah Vilayets; 100,000 piastres is the share of the Bussorah Vilayet. Draw this amount from the Bussorah Treasury and send it by telegraphic order.

On the 18th instant, the following telegram was sent from the Ministry of Finance, Constantinople, to the Defterdar (Treasurer), Bussorah:

"For four battalions of the 6th Army Corps, about to be sent to Kasim, of one month's pay and provisions amount to 57,000 piastres. See order of this amount the part allotted to battalions going from Bussorah."

I do not clearly understand in this second telegram whether the 57,000 piastres are for one month's pay and rations for four battalions, and whether any of these four are fresh ones or they had already all been collected at Nejd. I have heard precisely of only two battalions having been sent from the Bussorah Vilayet, and I have had the honour to report in my telegrams No. 70 of the 31st December, and No. 1 of the 7th January.

I have heard vaguely that some troops (perhaps two battalions) were sent from the Muntellik Sandjak of this vilayet, and that there was an extraordinary number of desertions on that occasion. However, it seems clear from the two telegrams that it was intended to send at least eight battalions of infantry, and I hear also of six guns and about 400 mule cavalry. I have heard that the force, or part of it, was about a fortnight ago at Wakiyah Wells, about 100 miles on the road from Nejd to Kasim, but I have heard practically nothing further of its march towards Kasim, since a part of it left Nejd about the end of January, parts of it having, it seems, left earlier.

The Vali has now informed me that the expedition is to be a peaceful one, and that a Mutessarif, and other officials for Kasim, will follow, as they have been

[1517]

I

accepted by Ibn Saoud's father, Abdurrahman, in the two meetings of the 8th and 13th instant respectively, which I have reported. The Vali says that Abdurrahman requested of him the favour of an interview or explaining that Ibn Rashid was listened to by the Turkish Government while he himself, though loyal, had never been heard; and that he (the Vali) claimed the necessary permission from Constantinople, and the meetings took place accordingly with a satisfactory result. My information, however, of the correctness of which I have no doubt, is that the first overtures came from A.

At the end of October as I have reported. The unsatisfactory telegram from the Vali, reported in my despatch above referred to, was a reply to the letter of Fakhr Pasha. This telegram, and the one from the Kaimakam of Basra, which is reported in the same despatch, were handed into the Pao office on the 17th November were kept in Basorah about a fortnight, during which time the Vali was no doubt telegraphically corresponding with Constantinople, and were finally sent on to the Palace about the end of November.

Abdurrahman's equally unsatisfactory letter, reported in the same despatch, was received here on the 5th or 6th December, and may have been in reply to Fakhr Pasha's letter, though I have not heard that there was anything in it about the meeting proposed by Fakhr Pasha. Further correspondence passed, with the details of which I am not acquainted, on about the beginning of the 1st of January a letter was received by the Vali from Sheikh Mubarek asking about a proposed meeting of Abdurrahman and the Sheikh with the Vali.

Abdurrahman came to or near Koweit and sent a message to the Vali proposing a meeting on the Koweit-Basorah boundary. The Vali wished the meeting-place to be near the town of Basorah, but the Sheikh and Abdurrahman seem to have objected that there was a good pasturage about the town for the many horses and camels they had with them. The two were also doubt afraid of Arab enemies and

the telegraph of the 23rd January from the Marquis at Londowne to the Vali, a part of which I have telegraphed the substance, probably contained something about the meeting.

The other Arabic part of the Sultan's pardon for past offences, and the Marquis's letter to good government beware of it, and not let it be known. It has not yet, so far as I know, been sent to Nejd. The Mushir wanted copies of it to be given for transmission to Nejd, but they had a few days before been sent off in order to Constantinople, as I have reported. He wished another copy to be given to some persons of Ibn Rashid who were in Basorah, but they refused to take it. No trustworthiness by person could, it is said, be found to take charge of it. It was, I believe, sent to Koweit.

The Sheikh of Koweit's telegram of the 20th January to the Vali is as follows:

"Abdurrahman will be here in six days. I will inform you of his coming, and he will confirm what I have said about his loyalty."

The Sheikh, however, himself signed this "Ruler of Koweit and Chief of its tribes." Finally, the two meetings of the 8th and 13th February, each at about 30 miles distance from Basorah town, within the Vilayet of Basorah. The second meeting-place was a few hours away from the first, but no nearer Basorah town. The Sheikh and Abdurrahman were wandering about for pasturage and, it is said, hawking. With the Vali there were present at the meetings only the Mektubi (Secretary) and the Assistant Secretary of the vilayet. The latter has been talking to several persons, of whom one has directly reported his account of the first meeting to my Dragoman, and from another a similar account of the first meeting has reached my Dragoman indirectly through a third person. The Vali has given much the same account to me. It appears then that Abdurrahman expressed readiness to accept civil officials, a Mutewarid, and so forth, and garrisons in Kasim, though he protested against expense being entailed by the garrisons, but that he will have none of Ibn Rashid's interference. The Vali has told someone here that he, the Vali, reproved Sheikh Mubarek in the first meeting for signing "Ruler and Chief," but that the Sheikh would not agree to sign as Kaimakam. The Vali, after the first meeting, expressed himself to my Dragoman in violent language against the Sheikh and his followers, and sent a postal service to pass through his territory to the south.

I have not been able to learn what passed at the second meeting. Immediately after it the Vali sent to Koweit a written message, which probably, from what I hear,

contained a written Imperial pardon for Abdurrahman and his son. The Vali has telegraphed to the Sheikh and Kaimakam of Basorah, and has also sent a telegram to the Vali, a reply to "letters," meaning, no doubt, to this message. It is possible that it may have contained something else of importance.

The Sheikh of Koweit's Agent now walks about the town every day.

As the Sultan's wrath is exerted afresh. This Consulate never loses a word from him now, and he seems disinclined even to salute my Dragoman, towards whom his demeanour used to be very different.

I would add that it does not appear that the Vali gave any decisive answer at either meeting, or that any result has yet been arrived at.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. H. MONAHAN

No. 40

Foreign Office to India Office

Sir,
Foreign Office, March 18, 1905.
I AM directed by the Marquis of Londowne to acknowledge the receipt of your

letter of the 14th inst. in the first five paragraphs of the despatch from the Marquis of India received in that letter were fully dealt with in the letter from this Office of the 20th November, 1904, the seventh paragraph of which was as follows:

"When, therefore, the Government of India suggested, in their telegram of the 24th May 1904, that the moment was opportune for the dispatch of an officer to Koweit, His Majesty's Government were of opinion that it was not desirable to send such an officer until they had originally intended. The most important of these conditions was that the officer should be able to speak Arabic."

I am to state that Lord Londowne, while unable to admit the correctness of the inference described in paragraph 3 of the despatch from the Government of India, does not consider that there would be any advantage in further pursuing the discussion of the subject.

His Lordship sees no objection to the suggestions of the Government of India as to the means for effecting the temporary withdrawal of the British troops from Koweit.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON

No. 41

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquis of Londowne.—(Received March 20.)

(No. 165.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, March 14, 1905.
I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith a despatch from the Marquis of Londowne, containing a report on the reinforcements for the Yoman from Syria, and forwarding the distribution of the same. I am, Sir, Sir N. O'Connor.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. B. O'CONNOR.

Inclosure in No. 48

Lieutenant-Colonel Maunsell to Sir N. O'Connor

Constantinople, March 13, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to forward to you the seriousness of the insurrection in the Yemen it has been decided to send out eight more battalions of Redifs— which comprise the Akla— friends—making a total of thirty-two battalions on their way to the Yemen Relief Expedition under Ali Riza Pasha.

I beg to attach a distribution table marked in red troops who have left or

When they all arrive at Hadramawt

Further, a force of 1,000 recruits and drafts to make up the strength of the Yemeni battalions in the Yemen these to be collected from Aden and on the Syrian Coast

In Constantinople, the Government Mubassee Company having failed to produce serviceable steamers for transports, all their spare boats being under repairs, the Minister of War has had to arrange with private shipping companies for transports to haul stores and then collect men at the various Syrian ports

Two field batteries and one mountain battery, the latter recently from Krupp, together with 20,000 large calibre Vanner rifles and a quantity of food supplies, flour, &c., are being shipped here, after which the vessels will leave

Attached also is a distribution table of the 16th (Hajjah) Division which includes the troops at Medina, from where four battalions have just left for Kassar to assist the desert

I have
(Signed)

F. R. MAUNSELL, Lieutenant-Colonel
Military Attaché

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne (Received March 20)

No. 106)

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward to you with a despatch, from Lieutenant-Colonel Maunsell, Military Attaché to the Embassy, forwarding the distribution table of the 6th (Bagdad) Corps and a list of Arab tribes in the Bagdad Vilayet

I have, &c.

N. R. O'CONNOR

Inclosure 1 in No. 50

Lieutenant Colonel Maunsell to Sir N. O'Connor

(No. 8.)

Sir,

Constantinople, March 18, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to forward a distribution table of the troops in the 6th

The force under Mushar Feiz Pasha, marching towards Hail, now consists of six battalions (1,000 men), two having been sent back probably owing to the difficulty of providing transport for the force

The expedition from Medina, consisting of four battalions (3,000 men) under Sult Pasha, has at last left that place, and will co-operate with the Mushar from that side

There is as yet no definite news of Feizi Pasha's arrival at Kassar, but apparently he is experiencing some difficulties as regards transport, as urgent requisition has been made for 2,000 more riding camels

Major Newmarch has just sent me a list of the principal Arab tribes on the Euphrates, which I beg also to inclose, as it may be of interest at the present time I have, &c.

(Signed) F. R. MAUNSELL, Lieutenant-Colonel
Military Attaché

Inclosure 2 in No. 50.

Arab Tribes in the Bagdad Vilayet

Sheikh

Sheikh

Sheikh

They are all the sons of the late Ferhan Pasha. Major, as it is recognized Chief of the clan. He has received the title of 'Bey' from the Ottoman and with the title an allowance of £1,200 per annum.

They number about 2,000 tents and 5,000 men. They can put 4,000 horsemen in the field. They are said to possess about 200 Martini rifles, otherwise they are armed with spears.

Their principal headquarters are in the Shamayyah, but they travel for pasture to Mosul, Suwayh, Karbala, Nejed, and Acot.

They are great horse-breeds, and they also breed camels and sheep. At Karbala and Nejed they purchase wheat, barley, and dates, and they also dispose of their camels, horses, sheep, and ghee there.

Sheikh Asa's men have taken to cultivation. They occupy lands near the Bagdad Canal, where they also breed sheep, and they are said to be more peacefully disposed than the other members of the clan.

BEM LAM

Sheikh

Sheikh

Sheikh

Sheikh

There are four or five other minor Sheikhs, but they are not considered men of importance and their names are unknown here.

They number about 700 men and have 1,500 tents. They can put 3,000 horsemen in the field armed with Martini and other rifles.

They are generally to be found between Koot and Akkash, and from Koot to the Persian frontier, under Hassan Kuli Kh.

They are freebooters, speak Persian, Kurdish, and Arabic. What they steal in Turkish territory they sell in Persia and vice versa.

SHAMMAR TOGA

They are a sept of the great Shammar tribe or nation, who have separated themselves from the main stock and have settled below Ctesiphon. They were originally of the Sulaimi faith, but now profess the Shi'ah tenet.

Their principal and only Sheikh is Khashmooz. They number about 400 tents and can turn out about 100 horsemen. They number in all about 400.

They are agriculturists, and about half their number are now employed by Kadhim Pasha as cultivators on his lands near Ctesiphon. It is said that Kadhim Pasha protects them from the rapacity of the tax-collectors and recruiting sergeants, and that the Shammar Toga appear to be better off since taking service under Kadhim Pasha than formerly.

Richard E. J. de Borch.
Michael J. de Borch.

They are agriculturists, and they possess camels, buffaloes, cows, and sheep.

448

for N. O'Connell to the Burgess of Londonderry.—(Received March 25.)

(No 111)
My Lord,

Cont. under title, March 14, 1905.

These instructions are substantially in conformity with our demands, and as they leave no room for doubt that the Yaffai is one of the Nine Cantons, they are particularly

this result, and the presence of His Majesty's ship "Porpoise" in the neighbourhood of Turke afforded valuable assistance, for which I am grateful.

I have, as already reported to your Lordship, informed Mr. Fitzmaurice that, as far as my negotiations with the Porte are concerned, it is unnecessary to detain the ship any longer in that neighbourhood.

I trust that no unnecessary delay will now occur in furnishing Mr. T. with the escort which he will require to delineate the southern frontier. It is already far advanced, and every day's delay will add to the physical difficulties of executing the work, and to the danger to be apprehended from the climate.

I have, &c
N B O'CONNOR

Inclosure 1 in No. 51.

Note communicated by the Ottoman Government to Sir N. O'Connor.

EN réponse à la note verbale que l'Ambassade de Sa Majesté Britannique a bien voulu lui adresser en date du 10 Mars, le Ministère des Affaires Étrangères a l'honneur de lui transmettre ci-joint copie des instructions données par la Sublime Porte au Délégué Ottoman, et du télégramme qu'elle vient d'expédier au Gouvernement de Constantinople sur ce sujet.

4. *Merr.* 1885.

second Viceroy to the Minister of War

(Translation.)

4 *Yuharrem*, 1323 (March 11, 1905).

IN continuation of my despatch of the 22nd Shewal, 1322 (20th December, 1904).

The tenour of the Imperial Irade, which was issued to sanction the decision of the Council of Ministers concerning the transmission of instructions to the Ottoman Commissioner in regard to the settlement of the frontier of the Canton Sabah by a line drawn to the coast of the sea of Aden outside Bab-el Mandeb, leaving Turka and its mouth, and as to a line ending at Siakh Miral on the side of the Yemem, and the decision of the affair of the frontier of the Nine Cantons, was referred also to the Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

that the British Embassy calls its attention to the
 in view this work, and urges that the demarcation of this section of the

settle the frontier to the north-east, relating to the four tribes of Blabou, Nanwa, and Rubintou, which are considered by the British Government as dependencies of Tsalai, in accordance with the Imperial trade previously communicated).

As the Imperial Trade Council in regard to the manner of delimiting the frontier
 Excellency on the 22nd Shawal,
 in regard to the frontier-line to be drawn
 ert was likewise communicated on the
 30th, January, 1918 (12th February, 1903), and as the section from Lukinet-coh-Shoub

In the
 the
 Yunnan and the
 on the formal

Inclosure 3 in No. 61.

Instructions from the Ottoman Government to the Velayet of Yemen.

(Translation,

and subsequently to set to work on the settlement of the Yassai frontier, in accordance with the Imperial Trade previously communicated," and expedite the termination of these operations.

No. 52

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received March 20.)

(No. 170.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, March 14, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith a copy of a Memorandum by Lieutenant-Colonel Monseil, Military Attaché to the Embassy, containing a summary of the events in the Yemen insurrection.

I have, &c.
Signed) N. R. O'CONNOR.

I enclose in No. 52

Summary of Events in the Yemen Insurrection of 1904-1905 up to March 14, 1905.

DISCONTENT and minor disturbances against Turkish rule have been chronic in the Yemen since the last serious insurrection was suppressed in 1899.

Last spring the old leader, Sheikh Hamud-ed-Din, who lived at Sanaa and was a young and energetic man, who woke the ardent feelings of revolt and law.

The outbreak took the Turks by surprise. The garrisons, besides that of Sanaa and a few other places, such as Haje Hajar and Taiz, were scattered in small detachments and posts throughout the country with long lines of communications through hostile country.

The first serious encounter was on the 25th November, 1904, when the rebels attacked the post of Hafsh, the garrison of 100 men completely destroyed, no relief being possible to raise the siege.

This was the first blow to Turkish prestige, and led to urgent demands for reinforcements being made by the Vali.

The nearest troops were those at Kufida, where the Adana Redif Brigade delayed on the coast since November 1903, with the intention of moving inland to Asir and punishing the tribes who had revolted there.

These were ordered to be diverted to Hodeidah, where the rebellion was increasing in Aden and the war was out between Sanaa and Taiz. Urgent demands for three months' rations, ammunition, and reinforcements were sent again.

It may be added that flour and other food supplies have often to be imported from India for the troops, and last year's famine has made matters worse, and supplies were apparently wanted.

On the 12th December came the serious news that Sanaa itself was invested, the road to the coast at Hodeidah was beset by rebels, and the detached posts along it attacked.

The outskirts of Hodeidah were also attacked.

Owing to the want of troops at hand, a suggestion was made to attack the frontier posts, but this was not carried out.

On the 24th December the dispatch of an entire Redif division from Syria was approved, the men to move by the Hejaz Railway to Mann, march thence to Akaba, where they would embark for Hodeidah, thus saving the Canal dues. The Vali of

Sanaa was now closely besieged, and a relief force of two battalions with

returned after having penetrated a short distance, the friendly being disarmed.

On the 26th December the Sinan Pasha post on the Sanaa-Hodeidah

Sanaa was now closely besieged, and a relief force of two battalions with

It was decided to await the arrival of more regular troops.

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On the 31st December the Mudir of the Nahie of Mahviyet, dependent on Kaukeban, was captured with his escort. Toklamish, Khamis, and the town of Tabela, with the body of troops under Colonel Edhem Bey, were obliged to surrender with other small posts. By the 6th January troops began to arrive from Confuda in "sambuks," or native boats, towed by steam-launches. Troops also prepared to be sent from Yambo in the Hejaz.

On the 10th January Sanaa was seriously attacked for six days and nights; bread was deficient in the town, but there was plenty of meat. The Vali managed to telegraph urging troops to be sent at once, saying that if the rebellion is not now checked fifty or sixty battalions will soon be necessary to quell it, and the rebels are in considerable force.

On the 14th January the first order was sent definitely to mobilize two brigades of Syrian Redifs, and prepare one brigade of eight Nizam battalions from the 5th (Syrian) Corps for immediate embarkation at Akaba for the Yemen.

On the 20th January a transport, the "Hagion Oros," a Greek vessel, was full of troops just embarked at Confuda for the Yemen, when the men mutinied, seized the captain and officers, and turned the vessel homewards.

They arrived at Suez in a state of starvation, but on payment of the Canal dues was allowed to pass through, after which they reached Merina, their home.

Orders have been given that they are to be severely punished.

On the 7th February Anaf Pasha had organized a relief column with what troops had then come in, and on that day successfully forced his way into Sanaa.

But the rest of the country continues much disturbed by the rebels. The Jebel Hujra post was surrounded, while the fourteen other small posts were in great danger.

Very shortly after Sanaa was entered by the relieving force, the rebels being defeated by the main force, and on the 12th February its state became worse, as it was now invested by the rebels again. This happened almost immediately after Anaf Pasha entered the town.

The post of Jibal Sharhi, in the Qaza of Anis, surrendered, and was counted a serious loss.

Hafsh Kaleh, in the Sandjak of Hodeidah, also surrendered, and a detachment of troops in Anis Qaza with guns and ammunition was captured, the officer in command being killed.

On the 19th February the troops were withdrawn from the important posts of Hajar and Tripoli. A week later the rebels raided the Qazas of Anis and Kataba; the troops retired. The want of provisions was very severely felt. Three companies of troops at Mansouria, in the Qaza of Haraz, were obliged to surrender.

On the 22nd February Kataba and Ibb were besieged and communications with the Taiz Sandjak were interrupted. Anis and Vam were also blockaded, but the rebels have not yet captured the important centre of Taiz, although it seems to be surrounded.

On the 2nd March the most serious disaster for the Turks occurred in the capture of the important military centre of Haje, north-west of Sanaa, usually

of 5 centim. and 12 centim. were captured, with 2,000 Martini and 2,000 cases of ammunition, after which the rebels pushed on towards Johor, which they have surrounded. This place cannot be traced on the map, but is apparently nearer to Sanaa.

On the 3rd March, the relief expedition having begun to collect at Hodeidah, Ferik Ali Riza Pasha, recently nominated to the command of the troops in the Yemen, arrived there.

He is a good soldier with plenty of energy, and the right man for the post. He was Vali of Monastir when the Russian Consul was shot there in 1903, after which he was sent to Tripoli.

The situation he found most critical at Hodeidah; help was urgently needed if Sanaa was to be relieved. He stated that it could only hold out for ten days from about the 27th February. So desperate was the case that, even if Riza Pasha had not arrived, urgent orders had been sent to the Governor of Hodeidah to push on with whatever troops were at hand and some armed levies from the town.

It appears that Menakba, an important stronghold about half-way along the road between Sanaa and Hodeidah, has been captured by the rebels, although it was reported before that it had been temporarily in the hands of the insurgents.

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This gives an important advantage to the Turks in their advance from the coast to Sanaa.

The road onwards between Menakha and Sanaa is undoubtedly held by the enemy, and there the principal fighting must take place.

In Sanaa itself is a force of seven battalions (3,500 men) with the former Commandant, Tewfik Pasha, the Vali, also Tewfik Pasha, and the principal officials, civil and military.

On Risa Pasha's arrival he started inland from Hodeidah immediately with seven battalions and eight mountain batteries on the 5th March to relieve Sanaa.

The force, about 4,000 men, seems rather too small to accomplish his purpose, but the Syrian reinforcements continued to arrive so slowly and the situation at Sanaa was so urgent that he was obliged to move.

Meanwhile some help had been afforded to Johar, although the steps of the place has not been raised, and the insurgents are also active in Hoshum.

The number of insurgents in the field is difficult to estimate, but 30,000 seems a reasonable estimate, which was given by a Turkish officer.

The condition of affairs has now become so serious that another Redif brigade, that of Akka (St Jean d'Acre), has been called out in the Syrian Corps, making a total of eight Nizam and twenty-four Redif battalions on their way from there to Hodeidah.

Transports have been most difficult to obtain, and three vessels of the Khedive Mail Line are now embarking troops at Akka and are on their way to Hodeidah.

Five thousand recruits and drafts are to be collected at various Syrian ports and Adalia and sent to Yemen. Six vessels have been hired from foreign Companies at Constantinople to carry these troops and stores.

Two field batteries and one mountain mortar, with 30,000 large-calibre Mauser rifles, have been shipped here and will leave shortly.

Large quantities of food supplies, flour, &c., are also being sent, as provisions are badly needed at Hodeidah.

Should Sanaa fall the effect will be serious, and there are rumours that the insurrectionary movement may spread to Mecca and Medina.

In any case, what will practically be the reconquest of the Yemen will have to be undertaken.

P R MANSFIELD

Constantinople, March 13, 1905.

No. 54

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received March 20.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Brodrick, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram from Mr. Fitzmaurice, dated the 20th March, relative to the Aden delimitation.

India Office, March 20, 1905.

Inclosure in No. 53

Mr. Fitzmaurice to Sir N. O'Connor.

March 20, 1905.

(Telegraphic.) P.

ADEN delimitation: Your Excellency's telegram No. 7.

sent through the Vali of Yemen. But, in reply to the telegram sent by him, as recorded in my No. 4, received on the 18th instant, communication direct from the Minister of War, stating that Commissioner's message has been communicated to the Grand Vizier; that he is now instructed to proceed with delimitation down to Sheikh Mirid; and that delimitation north-east is to be carried out in accordance with the Indé of February 1903.

No mention of the four places is made in the above communication, and Turkish Commissioner is unable to agree to insertion in *procès-verbal* of points not included in instructions he has received.

He has telegraphed to-day to his Government, through the Vali, to the following effect:

That the Aulak fall to the south of the line implied in the Indé of February 1903 (i.e., that they are on the British side of the line); that, while he is doubtful as to Juban, he is convinced, from information in his possession, together with proofs with which I have furnished him, that the other three places belong to Yafa; and he requests that he may be authorized to conclude settlement of north-east basis. It would seem that Juban is the stumbling-block of settlement of boundary north-east, in consequence of its being the administrative centre of a Canton.

Turkish Commissioner, in his telegram mentioned in my No. 4, reported, as an argument in favour of speedy settlement, that five British men-of-war were rumoured to be in the vicinity of Perim, and that their intentions were suspicious. Presence of so many war-ships is quite mythical.

In the same telegram he used the phrase "Kudam line" to represent the limits of the territory not to be ceded, in regard to which there is a vague reference in the *note verbale*.

(Repeated to Viceroy, Foreign Department, and Secretary of State.)

No. 54

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received March 20.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Brodrick, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 20th March, relative to the Muscat arbitration.

India Office, March 20, 1905.

Inclosure in No. 54

Government of India to Mr. Brodrick.

March 20, 1905.

(Telegraphic.) P.

MUSCAT Arbitration. My telegram of the 14th instant.

Details are being sent by post regarding Lowatinas—they are Khormasan emigrants from Sind. British protection is apparently accorded to those who left Sind after its conquest by the British.

No. 55.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received March 20.)

(No. 55.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Constantinople, March 20, 1905.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 168 of the 14th instant: Aden.

To-day I have sent the following telegram to Fitzmaurice:—

"With reference to your telegram of to-day, No. 7, the Minister of War was informed by the Grand Vizier that the Commissioner's assertion of our claim to the four places on the north-east boundary in the *procès-verbal* by the Turkish Commissioner.

"As, however, our claim is officially recorded, you need not insist if this point is likely to cause delay.

"In regard to signature, instructions will be sent to you later."

Can Fitzmaurice be instructed to sign if your Lordship approves?

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No. 56.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received March 31)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Brodrick, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram from the Resident, Aden, dated the 20th instant, relative to the Yemen disturbances.

India Office, March 20, 1905

Inclosure in No. 5

Resident, Aden, to Government of India

(Telegraphic) P.

March 20, 1905

It is reported that Imam has captured Sanaa and Ibb, and that a portion of his force is approaching Kataba. Imam will, I am hopeful, confine his attention to the Turks, but if he does not, one or two regiments will probably be required at Aden to reinforce troops now here. Officer Commanding at British has been warned to be on the alert.

(Repeated to Secretary of State, Political Department, Bombay, and Commander-in-chief in India.)

No.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received March 31)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Brodrick, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 21st instant, respecting Bahrain affairs.

India Office, March 21, 1905

Inclosure in No. 57.

Government of India to Mr. Brodrick.

(Telegraphic) P.

March 21, 1905

BAHREIN My telegram of the 9th instant.

You will receive by mail full report of proceedings at Bahrain. Ultimatum was presented on the 24th February, but force was not resorted to as Sheikh agreed to our demands.

His Majesty's ship "Fox" has now left the island

No. 58

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received March 31.)

(No. 56.)

(Telegraphic) P.

Constantinople, March 21, 1905.

ADEN. To-day I have telegraphed to Fitzmaurice as follows:—

"With reference to your telegram of to-day, No. 8.

"I do not think we can properly ask Porte to do more than record our claim to the four places, of which very little is really known. They have, moreover, never questioned status of Aulaki Canton."

No. 59

Foreign Office to India Office

Sir,

Foreign Office, March 21, 1905.

WITH reference to the telegram No. 53 of the 14th instant, from His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, relative to the settlement of the Aden frontier, I am directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to transmit to you, to be laid before the Secretary of State for India, copy of a despatch from Sir N. O'Connor,* transmitting copy of a note verbale from the Sublime Porte, in which the instructions recently sent to the Turkish authorities in the Yemen regarding the delimitation of the frontier are inclosed.

I request that Mr. Brodrick's attention may be specially directed to the observations in the last paragraph of Sir N. O'Connor's despatch relative to the expediency of furnishing an escort for Mr. Fitzmaurice with

I am, &c.

(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON

No. 60

Foreign Office to India Office

Sir,

Foreign Office, March 21, 1905

WITH reference to the telegram No. 53 of the 14th instant, from His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, relative to the settlement of the Aden frontier, I am directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for India, copy of a telegram from His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, dated the 19th instant, in which His Excellency, with regard to the signature of the *procès-verbal* for the completion

Lord Lansdowne proposes, with Mr. Brodrick's concurrence, to authorize Sir N. O'Connor to instruct Mr. Fitzmaurice to sign the *procès-verbal* as suggested.

I am, &c.

(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 61

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received March 22)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Brodrick, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram from Mr. Fitzmaurice, dated the 21st instant, relative to the Aden delimitation.

India Office, March 22, 1905

Inclosure in No. 61

Mr. Fitzmaurice to Sir N. O'Connor

(Telegraphic) P.

March 21, 1905.

ADEN delimitation. Turkish Commissioner has received a further telegram, dated the 19th instant from Minister of War regarding the settlement of the Aden frontier. The instructions recently sent to the Turkish authorities in the Yemen regarding the delimitation of the frontier are explained in my telegram No. 7, paragraph 3.

(Repeated to Viceroy, Foreign Department, and Secretary of State.)

No. 51.

No. 55.

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No. 62

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Connor.

(No. 29.)

(Telegraphic.) P

Foreign Office, March 22, 1905.

HIS MAJESTY'S Government approve your telegram to Mr. Fitmaurice, transmitted in your telegram No. 55 of the 20th instant.

The India Office will send instructions as to providing an escort. Meanwhile you may instruct Mr. Fitmaurice to sign the *procès-verbal*.

No. 63.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to St. Cambon.

Foreign Office, March 22, 1905.

Sir,

WITH reference to the communication made by M. Gouffray on the 15th instant, I

suggest the French Government that, in order to facilitate the course of the proceedings before the Tribunal at The Hague in the Muscat Arbitration, and for the convenience of Chief Justice Melville Fuller, the English and French languages should be used concurrently in the proceedings.

His Majesty's Government would propose that a joint communication to this effect should be made to the Tribunal, and I should be obliged if your Excellency would ascertain whether the French Government agree to this course.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE

No. 64.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received March 23.)

THE Under Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosures in a letter from the Foreign Secretary, Calcutta, dated the 23rd February, relative to Koweit affairs.

India Office, March 23, 1905.

Inclosure 1 in No. 64.

Major Case to Government of India.

(Confidential.)

Buckley, January 14, 1905.

IN continuation of this office telegram, dated the 22nd September, and with reference to the communications from the Foreign Department detailed in the margin,* I have the honour to submit details of those cases of interference by Belgian customs officials with Koweit subjects or property, which are up to now unsettled or may be regarded as still being a source of irritation at Koweit.

2. I am as yet unable to report further regarding the incident which recently took place at Fao, in which the Agent for the care of Sheikh Mubarek's property there was involved, as His Britannic Majesty's Consul has not been able to conclude the further investigation and report which I am expecting from him. The Political Agent at Koweit has, however, been in communication with Mr. J. G. Lorimer, so that he has not been available for obtaining further information.

I now append a list of cases, numbered (a) to (g), respectively (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), and (g). The first four of these have already been

* Dated December 1 and 15 1904 and January 9, 1905.
[1 Query. See margin, see infra.]

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ment of India to the Secretary of State for India, of which a copy was forwarded to me under Foreign Department indorsement.

I will briefly comment on the items in detail.—

(a.) This case was mentioned to Government incidentally in this Office letter of the 2nd July, 1904, and remains *in statu quo*, the Customs having refused to refund the fine imposed.

In reference to it Sheikh Mubarek addressed me a long complaint, in the course of which he wrote

"We cannot endure this treatment, and your sense of what is right will surely not permit that those who are under your protection shall suffer in this way. If you afford us relief your will do us honour, and for such actions your great Government is noted. If you neglect to do so, and if this tyranny is not put a stop to, then we must seek some other state of things which will relieve us of it. At present all my subjects who travel for trade are in a state of terror."

I had to inform the Sheikh on the 6th July that the Customs had refused to comply with my representations, and that I was still not unanxious of the matter, but had had to report it to the Government of India for and

(b.) This case was only just alluded to in paragraph 8 of my letter before mentioned, and was reported to be "still under correspondence." Its further developments have been most unsatisfactory, and have resulted in much hardship to the nakhlah of the dhow in question, who appears to deserve substantial compensation, both for the loss of his goods and for the harassing protraction of his case over a period of six months.

(c.) Requires no special comment here, as the Government of India have already expressed their opinion on it, and there has since been no further development.

(d.) The same remarks apply to this case also, which is at present under reference to the Persian Government.

It is common report at Mohammerah and Bussorah, that these twenty-eight rifles were intended for the Nakib of Bussorah, but I quite understand the difficulty of pressing a case in which the arms, even if not bound for Persia, were in the hands of a person who had begun to incense themselves against the British Government.

The case of these unoffending persons seems to deserve independent consideration, and the principle governing the seizure of their merchandise has been referred to His Majesty's Ministry at Tehran, whose decision is awaited.

Foreign Department telegram, dated the 15th December, 1904, regarding the boundaries of jurisdiction on the Shatt-e-Arab, refers to this case. I still await information on this point from His Britannic Majesty's Consul at Bussorah, who, I think, has been away from headquarters. I have sent him a reminder on the subject.

Mr. McDonald writes, from a Mohammerah point of view, that there appears to be nothing definitely laid down, but that in practice Sheikh Khazal accepts the view that the jurisdiction is to be determined by the British Government.

I will report separately on this question as soon as all available material is to hand.

(g.) Alleged confiscation of some merchandise belonging to a Koweit subject from a Persian dhow

This case has not hitherto been reported to Government, and at present sufficiently strong evidence has not been obtained to make it any use approaching the customs in the matter, or to ask the Government of India to take any action in regard thereto

4. Apart from the cases of Koweit subjects with the Persian Customs, and quarantine at Bassorah, but until I receive details from the Political Agent at Koweit on his return from camp I am not in a position to submit a satisfactory report in this connection, and beg leave to postpone it. I believe that this grievance is not a very pressing one at the present time.

CASE (a).

Seizure of a Koweit dhow, owned by Yusuf and Abdulla-bin-Abdul Kader, by the S. s. ship "Musaffer," March 1904.

In March 1904 the Residency Agent, Lingah, reported that the Persian Customs which she had overtaken opposite Chirao; that the boat belonged to the Koweit s. s. gonta above mentioned, and was commanded by nakhoda Rashid-bin-Freli; that she had shipped "chandala" (rafters) at Kurnah (on the Island of Kishm) for Koweit; that as the nakhoda could not produce a Customs pass for the chandala the Director of Customs, who was on board the "Musaffer," wished to search the boat for contraband, that finding it inconvenient to carry out a search in the open sea, the Director was of opinion that the boat should be detained until she could produce the necessary papers. The nakhoda stated that the papers were with the owner of the cargo at Kishm, and wrote to him for the same. He then applied to the Turkish Consular Agent for assistance, and the latter approached the Director-General, but without success, so that the boat was detained for some time. The papers were ultimately produced, and the fine was 25 tomans.

The Chief of Koweit, who had meanwhile been petitioned by the nakhoda, mentioned the incident to the Persian Consul at Muscat, who in turn communicated it to the Belgian Customs Administration.

The Director-General was then addressed on the subject, and it was decided that the boat should be released, but the nakhoda was fined 25 tomans, as the nakhoda did not possess the necessary Customs documents.

As it was not known whether the vessel was seized within the 3-mile limit or not, the Director-General was asked to direct the Director of Customs to issue orders to the Customs at Chirao to detain any boat which was found between the Island of Kishm and the mainland. The Director-General refused to refund the fine.

The Resident had then to inform the Sheikh of Koweit that the Director of Customs had refused to refund the fine. The Resident's letter No. 203, dated the 2nd July, 1904, to the address of the Foreign Secretary.

CASE (b).

Detention of Koweit dhow of Nakhoda Mubarak-bin-Khalifa at Shiraz.

Seizure of twenty bags of wheat and the jolly boat of the vessel, which has since been destroyed while in hands of Customs, May and June, 1904.

This dhow, which is the property of a Koweit subject named Yusuf-bin-Munir, left Koweit with a cargo of dates and wheat on or about the 14th M.

On arrival at Shiraz, near Langah, the first port at which we called, the Customs Muder there demanded of the nakhoda a Customs pass for his cargo. The nakhoda explained that as he came from Koweit he possessed no such paper, but that he held a certificate from Sheikh M. barak to the effect that both dhow and cargo were from Koweit. The Muder refused to accept this, and declared that the wheat was dishonestly shipped from some Persian port, and accordingly seized twenty bags of it. After detaining the boat for about five days the Muder gave the nakhoda a letter on the Customs Director at Langah; the nakhoda carried this to the address of the Director, and asked the same view as his subordinate at Shiraz, and added that the vessel must await the decision of the Customs Inspector, who was expected to arrive shortly, or if the nakhoda did not choose to wait, must land all his cargo. After a couple of days the Inspector arrived.

The Sheikh's letter told the nakhoda that he would refer the matter to Bushree, and that pending orders from there he and his vessel would be detained.

The nakhoda, finding that, although he had been detained about three weeks, he had failed to get any definite reply, and being unable to afford to waste any more time lest he should lose his chance of selling his dates, left the twenty bags at the custom-house, and waited for the Arab coast to dispose of the rest of his cargo, which he found was rotting. At the same time he sent a Petition, representing the matter to Sheikh Mubarak. The latter, on receiving the nakhoda's complaint, wrote to this Residency under date the 22nd June, protesting against the action of the Customs authorities, and enclosing a Customs pass obtained from the Persian port of Mahoor, whence the wheat had been originally imported into Koweit.

The Director-General of Customs was addressed on the subject by this Residency, and was asked to state on what grounds the wheat had been confiscated, and whether he could see his way to release it. In reply, the Director-General stated that he was writing to Lingah for particulars. He subsequently wrote on the 18th July that as the nakhoda had declared that the wheat had been shipped at a Persian port, but had failed to produce the necessary Customs pass, twenty bags of wheat had been taken charge of as a security pending production of the necessary papers; that before the matter had been definitely settled the nakhoda had left in his dhow without giving any notice, and that therefore he had directed the sub-officer to seize the nakhoda on his arrival. He concluded by inquiring whether he was bound to furnish any explanation to the Residency on behalf of Koweit subjects. He was informed that as the nakhoda was a Koweit subject, the Resident considered he was entitled to give the man his Consul's good offices.

About the same time the Government of India were addressed with a view to ascertaining how far British protection was to be extended to Koweit subjects, and it was suggested that the Chief of Koweit might be advised to use a distinctive flag for Koweit boats.

The Residency Agent at Lingah reported that the dhow in question had been seized with her nakhoda at Mokam by the Customs authorities. The nakhoda was subsequently released through the intervention of the Zabit of Mokam and left in his boom for Koweit, but his jolly-boat was detained.

After a good deal of correspondence, M. Waffelaert ultimately wrote that in view of a promise he had made to the Resident, he was "prepared to be completely lenient towards the above nakhoda, and, as an exceptional case, release the twenty bags of wheat in question." The nakhoda was accordingly released. He appeared to be under an impression that the nakhoda's jolly-boat had been restored to him. This, however, on reference to Lingah proved to be incorrect, and the jolly-boat was found to have been wrecked while under detention of the Customs at Mokam.

This case had now dragged on till the end of November, and on the 3rd December the question of compensation for the loss of the jolly-boat was broached to the

Director-General, but he replied on the 7th December refusing to entertain it, and declined to correspond further with the Residency in regard to Koweit subjects.

The bags of wheat have not yet been taken over by the owner, and are no doubt spoilt long ere this, so that the owner has lost both his jolly-boat and his twenty bags of wheat. Probable value in all about 300 rupees.

CASE (c).

Detention and seizure of a dhow belonging to Sheikh Su ark of Koweit, named the "Muselim," September 1904.

Sheikh Mubarak having heard that his boat named "Muselim," which habitually plies between Koweit and Fao on his own business, had been stopped detained, and searched by a boat from the Persian Customs steamer "Muzaffer," about the middle of September 1904, wrote to the Political Agent, Koweit, strongly protesting against the action of the "Muzaffer." The Political Agent, in forwarding the Sheikh's complaint, stated that the feeling in Koweit itself was very bitter against the Belgian steamer of the Persian Customs, owing to this incident and the seizure of Koweit boats in the Shatt-el-Arab, and might lead to retaliation. He also stated that the men from the "Muzaffer" were in the habit of firing ball cartridges at random when stopping a boat, and had done so in this case.

The case was presented to the Director-General of Customs, Bushire, who, after some letters had been exchanged with this Office, replied, under date the 3rd November, 1904, that the "Muzaffer" "has detained many 'booms and bellums,' but has never kept them longer than it was necessary for searching the inside of the craft." He added that "the Commander of our boat does not recollect anything particular about the boom 'Muselim,' but the mere fact of the crew shouting out that the vessel belonged to Sheikh Mubarak was not sufficient to prove that the boat did not carry contraband goods."

No satisfaction was obtained, and the matter was, therefore, reported to the Government of India in this Office letter of the 20th November, 1904.

CASE (d).

Detention of the Koweit dhow "Teyzir" by the Steamship "Muzaffer" in the Shatt-el-Arab. Seizure of arms found in her and imposition of fine on her Nakhoda, September 1904.

News reached Bushire from Mohammerah in the middle of September 1904, that the Persian Customs steamer "Muzaffer" had been searching all sailing vessels going up the Shatt-el-Arab for arms, without reference to the Chief of Mohammerah in whose jurisdiction the operations were being carried out. The Chief was greatly exercised at these proceedings, and sent a complaint to the Persian Minister of the Interior.

On the 23rd September His Britannic Majesty's Consul, Mohammerah, reported that His Britannic Majesty's Consul, Bussorah, had sent to him the owner of a Koweit boat named "Teyzir," nakhoda Ah bin Mahammed Mubarak, which had been seized by the "Muzaffer" for having 12 rifles and 1,200 cartridges on board.

The owner stated that the vessel was bound for Sihbiyat, near Bussorah, to load dates, and the arms and ammunition had been taken on board at Koweit for protection against pirates in the Shatt-el-Arab and the villages between Bas-el-Had and Partag, that the arms had not been concealed; that the vessel had no intention of communicating with Persian territory, that while she was tacking up the river off the Turkish fort at Fao, she met boats from the "Muzaffer" and was seized.

On His Britannic Majesty's Consul, Mohammerah, representing the case to the Director-General of Customs, he stated that the rifles were concealed and now, with full complement of cartridges, and that as the importation of arms was prohibited in Turkey as well as Persia, it was immaterial whether they were bound.

He suggested that, as it would take some time to settle the case and a reference would have to be made to Tehran, the owner may pay a fine of double the value of the rifles under protest and get his vessel released. The owner, under the advice of the Consul, adopted the suggested course and paid 5,000 krans.

Sheikh Mubarak, on hearing of the proceedings of the "Muzaffer," wrote to the Government of India, who are in communication with His Majesty's Legation, Tehran. The Wali of Bussorah has protested to the Persian Government against Persian gun boats stopping and searching vessels in the Shatt-el-Arab proceeding to Bussorah.

The Government of India decided (vide telegram dated the 28th November 1904) to present the case to the Persian Government on the grounds that the arms were evidently for the defence of the dhow.

Still pending.

CASE (f).

Seizure of a Koweit dhow, Nakhoda Ibrahim, by the Steamship "Muzaffer" in the Shatt-el-Arab, for having twenty-eight rifles on board. Subsequent confiscation of dhow and imprisonment of Nakhoda and confiscation of innocent goods, September 1904.

About the middle of September 1904 the Persian Customs steamer "Muzaffer," while searching sailing vessels for arms near the mouth of the Shatt-el-Arab, came across a Koweit boat commanded by nakhoda Ibrahim, and seized it for having

She was brought up to Mohammerah, where the Nakhoda was released but on receiving a fine of 18,000 krans, which he said could be paid under

The Director-General of Customs, Arabistan, then wired to the Director-General of Customs, Bushire, to send the "Muzaffer" to the Koweit boat "Persepolis" and brought the Koweit boat in tow to Bushire, the "Muzaffer" following.

At Bushire nakhoda Ibrahim was at first placed under ordinary detention, but later on consigned to a room in the Government House set apart for prisoners. He was allowed to keep his boat, but on making over his boat to the Customs he would be released. Before coming to

being made to the Government of India (vide Captain Trevor's telegram dated the 11th November, 1904).

Meanwhile, on the 12th November, orders were received by the local Com-

The dhow was put up to auction on the 20th November, but no bid was made, and she still remains unsold. The nakhoda was released, as nothing could be got out of him, and returned to Koweit on the 7th December.

The goods which were shipped quite innocently in this boat for Bussorah, were confiscated on board for the benefit of the Persian Government, the endeavours of this Residency to get the Director-General of Customs to release them proving unavailing. The case was reported to the Government of India in this Office letter dated the 20th November 1904.

CASE (g).

Alleged confiscation of goods belonging to a Koweit subject, Yusuf-el Haris, found in Persian dhow, August 1904.

In August 1904 the Chief of Koweit sent to the Resident a complaint from the steamship "Muzaffer" overtook a Persian sailing vessel off Mighon (near Lingah) which had among her cargo twenty cases of vermicelli, and one case containing seven-teen compasses and six yards of broad-cloth on board for him, examined the cargo, demanded a Customs pass, which not being forthcoming, one case of vermicelli and the case of compasses and broad-cloth were removed from her. Yusuf stated that

transhipped at Bahrain for Koweit, but that on the nakhoda of the Bahrain boat finding near Basra a Persian boat bound for Koweit, they were transhipped to her at sea. It was after this transshipment that the "Muzaffer" met the boat bound for Koweit. The nakhoda of this dhow is a resident of Koweit, but a Persian subject, as also were the crew.

On the matter being represented by the Residency to the Director-General of Customs, Bushire, he replied as follows:

"On the 1st July last, on our way to Cherek, we came across a big boat flying the Persian flag. Having stopped the boat we learned that it belonged to Haj Mahomed Dilomy. From the statements which Khalifa-bin-Abdulla, the nephew of the said Haj Mahomed, made in reply to my questions, it resulted that the boat came from Kharrut, a Persian port, near Hander Abbas, where she had been to sell her cargo of wheat and barley. The nakhoda declared now to have on board twenty cases vermicelli and thirteen bags dried beans shipped at Abouir for Dilom. In searching the boat we found the statement regarding the quantity of the goods correct. To my demand to produce the Customs "cabotage" bonds, the nakhoda replied that the documents were sent to Dilom by post. This kind of proceeding appearing to me very strange I demanded that two cases vermicelli and one bag beans should be deposited as a guarantee with us, and to be released on presentation of the necessary documents. As to the box of seventeen compasses and six yards broad-cloth, we did not see any of them on board the said boat.

The above answer was communicated to the Political Agent, Koweit, who informed Sheikh Maharak of it. Sheikh Maharak thereupon sent the nakhoda of the vessel and Yusuf el-Haris to the Postal Agent, who took down their statements. The nakhoda declared that the "Muzaffer" confiscated the boxes containing vermicelli, broad cloth, and compasses, but his unsupported statement alone will not be accepted by the Customs, and although endeavours have since been made to obtain corroboration from the crew of the vessel and from the nakhoda of the Bahrain vessel from which the goods were transhipped, so far we have been unable to find them, and Yusuf el Haris was not himself present when the goods were transhipped.

No. 55.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received March 23.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosures in a letter from the Foreign Secretary, Calcutta, dated the 23rd February, relative to the refusal of Consul Grey at Muscat to authorize the British India Steam Navigation Company, at the request of M. Goguyer, to embark arms and ammunition for Koweit.

India Office, March 22, 1905.

Inclosure 1 in No. 65.

Major Grey to Government of India.

Sir,

Muscat, February 6, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to forward, for your information, copies of a letter which I received from M. Goguyer, and of my reply to him.

The correspondence is interesting in connection with the inclosure to my letter dated 22nd, 1904, to your address.

3. A copy of this letter will be forwarded to the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, Bushire.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W G GREY

Inclosure 2 in No. 65.

M. Goguyer to Major Grey.

M. le Consul.

Mascat, le 5 Février, 1905.

J'AI l'honneur de vous prier de vouloir bien autoriser l'agence de la British India Steam-ship Company à embarquer pour moi, sur le vapeur le plus prochain à destination de Koweit, une caisse contenant un fusil double avec 500 cartouches, à destination du Beyyid Khelef, fils du défunt Naqub de Bassorah, actuellement à la résidence de Koweit.

Esperant que vous accueillerez ma demande avec votre bienveillance habituelle et vous en remerciant, je vous prie, &c.

(Signé) A. GOGUYER.

Inclosure 3 in No. 65.

Major Grey to M. Goguyer.

Monsieur,

Mascat, le 5 Février, 1905.

J'AI l'honneur de vous accuser réception de votre lettre, mais puisque l'importation des fusils et des cartouches à Koweit est défendue, je regrette infiniment de ne pouvoir pas autoriser l'agence de la British India Steam Navigation Company d'en embarquer pour Koweit sans permission de mon Gouvernement.

Agree, &c.

(Signé) W G GREY.

Consul de la Grande-Bretagne à Mascat.

No. 66.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received March 23.)

Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr Secretary Brodrick, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 22nd March, relative to the Political Agent at Koweit.

India Office, March 22, 1905.

Inclosure in No. 66.

Government of India to Mr. Brodrick.

(Telegraphic.) P.

March 22, 1905.

KOWEIT Political Agent. We propose that when, in May next, Lorimer proceeds on leave, Knox should be posted temporarily to officiate at Ahwaz. Also, with a view to allaying resentment and suspicion felt by Maharak at withdrawal of our Agent, we would make arrangements for Knox to visit Koweit from Ahwaz in the event of Lorimer being away for more than three months. See reference to paragraph 7 of the letter from Government of India of the 19th January, 1905, Secret.

(Repeated to Resident in Persian Gulf.)

No. 67.

Foreign Office to India Office

Sir,

Foreign Office, March 23, 1905.

I HAVE laid before the Marquess of Lansdowne your letters of 14th and 17th February relative to the proposed reorganization of the Muscat Customs.

It is in Lord Lansdowne's opinion undesirable that His Majesty's Government should at the present moment initiate any considerable change in the internal administration of Muscat which would afford to the French Government grounds of complaint or a pretext for a counter-move on their side, and it appears to his Lordship that an arrangement might be made of a less far-reaching character than that

It would clearly be no objection to the Sultan appointing as head Customs officer an official recommended to him by the Government of India at his request.

The stipulation that the British Political Agent is to decide in all "important" cases between the Sultan and the Customs officer seems to be of a more questionable character. It might be argued with considerable force that such a stipulation does affect the Sultan's independence, and opportunity might be given for endless discussion as to the "importance" of each case as it arose.

The proposed guarantee of the Customs revenue might equally be considered as equivalent to a subsidy and consequently incompatible with the Sultan's complete independence.

The provision that the arrangement shall be terminable at one year's notice is also open to grave objection as exposing the parties to a perpetual reopening of the controversy.

Lord Lansdowne requests that you will lay these observations before Mr. Brodrick for his consideration, and he would further suggest that any action which it may eventually be decided to take in the matter might with advantage be deferred until the conclusion of the arbitration before The Hague Tribunal.

I am, &c.
Signed, T. H. SANDERSON

No. 68.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received March 24.)

Sir,

India Office, March 22, 1905.

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of Sir E. Gora's letter of the 21st instant, forwarding a telegram from His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople as to the Aden delimitation, and to state, in reply, that Mr. Secretary Brodrick concurs in the proposal of the Marquess of Lansdowne to authorize Sir N. O'Connor to instruct Mr. Fitzmaurice to sign the *procès-verbal* relating to the demarcation of the line from Mudariba to Sheikh Murad on the coast.

Yours faithfully,
A. O'DALEY.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received March 24.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Brodrick, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram to the Viceroy, dated the 22nd instant, relative to Muscat affairs.

India Office, March 23, 1905.

Inclosure in No. 69.

Mr. Brodrick to Government of India

India Office, March 22, 1905.

Exception is taken by Foreign Office to Grey's action, as reported in the 14th January last, in moving the Sultan to refuse French Vice-consular facilities for his journey to Sur, which, it is presumed, would be accepted as to the British Consul. Our relations with Muscat do not, in the opinion of the Foreign Office, justify such interference, and they are not prepared to defend it in the event of protest being made by French Government. Grey should be careful about intervening between the French Consul and the Sultan in questions of this kind in the absence of specific orders, and I request that he may be instructed accordingly.

No. 70.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received March 25.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Brodrick, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram from Mr. Fitzmaurice, dated the 24th March, relative to the Aden delimitation.

India Office, March 24, 1905.

Inclosure in No. 71.

Mr. Fitzmaurice to Sir N. O'Connor

March 24, 1905.

(Telegraphic) P.

Aden delimitation.

Authorization referred to in your F. No. 8 has not been received by Turkish Commissioner. He therefore telegraphed direct to the Minister of War, on the 22nd instant, requesting that he might be given authority by Government to recognize as British the districts mentioned in my telegram No. 4, paragraph 3, while maintaining generally that the boundary north-east is a straight line in the desert, subject to such deviations as may be found necessary by a future Commission on visiting the localities. Commissioner expects shortly to receive a reply to the above.

Please refer to my telegram No. 29 of 1903 with regard to the Aden delimitation.

Repeated to Foreign Secretary, Government of India, and Secretary of State.

No. 71.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received March 25.)

(No. 34)

(Telegraphic) P.

Constantinople March 25, 1905.

TODAY I sent the following telegram, No. 11, to Mr. Fitzmaurice:—

"With reference to your yesterday's telegram No. 9.

In the list of nine cantons communicated in 1873 to Perte, and also in that presented in consequence of your telegram No. 29 of 1903 on the 7th September of last year was included

"February 1905 leaves no doubt on the subject."

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Connor

(No. 95.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, March 25, 1905

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 168 of the 14th instant, forwarding copy of the instructions sent by the Sublime Porte for the completion of the Aden delimitation.

His Majesty's Government have learnt with satisfaction the result of your Excellency's representations, and your action in the matter is entirely approved.

I am, &c.

(Signed) LANSDOWN

No. 73

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne. — (Received March 27)

(No. 73.)

Constantinople, March 21, 1905

WITH reference to my despatch No. 170, of the 14th instant, enclosing a despatch from Colonel Maunsell on the subject of the situation in the Yemen, I have the honour to report that a rumour was current here yesterday that Sanaa, the capital of the Yemen, had been taken by the Turks. This report has not been confirmed, and there can be no doubt that the state of affairs in the Yemen is a matter of great anxiety to the Porte. A detachment of the Turkish army, under the command of Brigadier Riza Pasha who were besieged at Sanaa, and a loss of seventeen killed and fifty-eight wounded, and have effected a junction with the Commander-in-Chief of the Yemen army with his whole force. At the same time, the Turkish army is pointing out, at the same time, that the English might furnish the English with a pretext for invasion.

The Turkish Government is endeavouring to meet the situation by the continued dispatch of reinforcements. Twenty-four battalions of troops, forming the first levy, have embarked at Akaba, and the greater part, if not the whole, must already have reached Hodeida. It is reported from Damascus that six battalions of Nizams passed through that place en route for Akaba some little time ago, but it is not quite clear whether these troops are in addition to the twenty-four battalions already mentioned. A difficulty has occurred with regard to transport both by land and sea. The troops reach Akaba very slowly, and, as it is impossible to charter foreign vessels, the authorities have been obliged to employ the ships of the Mahomedan Company.

In the meanwhile, with a view to obviate the difficulties of land transport on future occasions, orders have been issued for the survey of the route from Maan to Akaba for the construction of a railway.

It appears that, in response to the representations of Ali Riza Pasha, the Sultan has approved the following additional measures:—

Eight Nizami battalions to be sent to the Red Sea (Serfidia Sandjak), which will at their places being taken by the Red Sea of Nasitche (Serfidia Sandjak), which will at once be called under arms, the Vilayets of Aleppo, Syria, and Beyrout to prepare transport animals at the rate of forty mules for each battalion; a special steamer to be chartered at Constantinople to convey 6,000 Mawars for these troops, and 27,000 Mawars and four maxims for the thirty-four battalions in the Yemen.

No. 74

Sir N. O'Connor

Foreign Office

Received March 27

No. 179.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, March 21, 1905

WITH reference to my despatch No. 170 of the 14th instant I have the honour to

I have, &c.

(Signed) N. B. O'CONNOR

No. 75

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne. — (Received March 27)

(No. 75.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, March 21, 1905

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship paraphrases of telegrams which I have had occasion recently to send to Mr. Fitzmaurice, C.M.G., on the subject of the negotiations for the delimitation of the Aden frontier.

I am, &c.

(Signed) N. B. O'CONNOR

Inclosure 1 in No. 75

Sir N. O'Connor to Mr. Fitzmaurice

No. 1.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Constantinople, March 3, 1905.

I APPROVE suggestion made in your telegram No. 2, but Commission should urge acceptance of Memorandum of the 11th August, 1904, and I advise you to press them to do so.

I have informed the Foreign Office of this.

Inclosure 2 in No. 75.

Sir N. O'Connor to Mr. Fitzmaurice.

(No. 2.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Constantinople, March 12, 1905.

I WILL communicate to you the arrangement made with the Porte yesterday for the delimitation of southern frontier, &c., on receiving approval of His Majesty's Government.

The telegram with the Turkish Commission is being sent by a confidential messenger, and I am confident, prevent any backsliding on the part of the Turkish Commission.

Inclosure 3 in No. 75.

Sir N. O'Connor to Mr. Fitzmaurice

(No. 5.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Constantinople, March 14, 1905

THE instructions sent for the delimitation of southern and north-eastern frontier to Yemen authorities have been communicated to me in a *note verbale* by Port.

It is unnecessary to detain "Persians," as these instructions are satisfactory.

Or are to proceed immediately with southern frontier from Mudariba to Sheikh

Y.

Inclosure 4 in No. 75.

Sir N. O'Connor to Mr. Fitzmaurice

(No. 6.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Constantinople, March 16, 1905

MAIL of 21st instant will bring you copy of instructions given to Turkish Commissioners on 18th instant through Hooenda.

The determination of the Mudariba to Sheikh Mirad frontier should, as I need hardly say, be concluded without delay.

Inclosure 5 in No. 75.

N. O'Connor to Mr. Fitzmaurice

(No. 7.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Constantinople, March 18, 1905

FOLLOWING is sense of instructions telegraphed by the Grand Vizier to the Turkish Commissioners, and communicated to me in *note verbale* —

Decision has been arrived at with British Embassy to effect that Subeiri frontier shall be drawn down to Sheikh Mirad, leaving Turba and the wells on the Yemen side being stipulated that a third Power of the territory adjoining this line. The Boundary shall proceed in accordance with the trade of February 1903, with the delimitation of the Yaffa frontier.

Instructions to the Minister of War, which are similar to those that Rubenten and the three other places are considered by His Majesty's Government to be dependencies of the Yaffa tri.

His Majesty's Government have approved this arrangement, but before sending you instructions as to signature, it is desirable that they should see the *note verbale* and its enclosures. They are due in London to day.

I form me whether Ottoman Commissioner has received instructions.

As regards the *procès-verbal*, I leave it to your discretion to decide what points should be recorded.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received March 27.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Brodrick, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram to the Viceroy, dated the 15th March, relative to the Aden delimitation.

India Office, March 27, 1905.

Inclosure in No. 76.

Mr. Brodrick to the Government of India

(Telegraphic.) P.

AFN delimitation.

India Office, March 15, 1905.

Ambassador at Constantinople reports that a satisfactory arrangement has been made by him with Turkish Government in regard to southern frontier which is to terminate at Sheikh Mirad.

Sir N. O'Connor also reports that the Vali will be sent instructions to the effect that Rubenten and other places, so far as they may be proved to be Yaffa, will be covered by this arrangement.

Sir N. O'Connor's action has been approved by His Majesty's Government.

No. 77.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received March 27.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Brodrick, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram to the Viceroy, dated the 23rd March, relative to the Aden delimitation.

India Office, March 27, 1905.

Inclosure in No. 78.

Mr. Brodrick to Government of India

(Telegraphic.) P.

N delimitation. My telegram of the 15th instant.

India Office, March 23, 1905.

Instructions, substantially in conformity with our demands, for demarcation of the frontier, have now been received by the Yemen authorities. I shall be glad if, as requested by His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, you will make the necessary arrangements to furnish Mr. Fitzmaurice with an escort, so as to enable him to complete the southern frontier at the earliest possible date.

Repeated to Aden.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received March 27.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Brodrick, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 27th March, relative to the Muscat arbitration.

India Office, March 27, 1905.

Inclosure in No. 78.

Government of India to Mr. Brodrick

(Telegraphic.) P.

MUSCAT arbitration. My telegram of the 14th instant.

March 27, 1905.

We are sending by next mail map showing the boundary of Muscat, together with a note by former. Government of India will advocate keeping the case strictly

within the limits of the Agreement of the (13th ?) October, and strongly deprecate filing the map or defining the Sultan's territories. If, however, it is impossible to avoid discussion of the question, Lorimer's sketch is, in our opinion, suitable as a general approximation. Consequently, in view of information recently received and the altered circumstances presented by the now declared attitude of the French, we may, without detriment, modify the view which we have previously expressed as to the independence of the coast round Misandam Promontory, from Dabba as far as Triba. See my Secret despatch of the 23rd October, 1902. Should the question of Gwadar be raised, it is not necessary to bring forward the claim of the Khan of K.

No 79

India Office to Foreign Office. — (Received March 2)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr Secretary of State, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram for Mr Fitzmaurice, dated the 25th March relative to the Aden delimitation.

India Office, March 27, 1905

Inclosure in No. 79.

Mr Fitzmaurice to Sir N. O'Connor

(No 10)

(Telegraphic.) P.

ADEN delimitation. Instructions received by Turkish Commissioner on the 26th March 27, 1905. The expression "territoire adjoint" is to be inserted in the *procès verbal*. Expression "territoire adjoint" is vague and might apply to that lying to the south of the Turkish Commissioner has telegraphed today inquiring whether the territory referred to is that which lies between the inner and outer lines. As regards the boundary of which an outline was given in the British Commissioner's letter No 333 of 1903, paragraph 1.

Please refer to your telegram No. 7, paragraph 1. Signature by me of *procès verbal* in the above sense seems useless. Accordingly, an arrangement with the Porte is being made by Government to be satisfactory with regard to both points, I propose to wait the result of the above-mentioned telegram sent by the Turkish Commissioner on 1 of the 27th.

No. 80

India Office to Foreign Office. — Received March 28

THE Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr Secretary of State, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram from the Viceroy dated the 27th instant relative to the Aden delimitation.

India Office, March 28, 1905

Inclosure in No. 80

Government of India to Mr. Brodrick

(Telegraphic.) P.

ADEN delimitation. Government of Bombay have been requested to consult the Government of India. There appears to be a want of precision in the language of the *note verbale*, as

communicated in his telegram No. 7 of the 18th instant by His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople. It is stated that the territory up to the coast, as far north as Kudam will be clearly included in the pledge not to alienate territory.

Repeated to Political Department, Bombay

No 81

H. Howard to the Marquess of Lonsdale. — (Received March 29)

(No. 49)

My Lord,

The Hague, March 29, 1905.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 39 of the 27th ultimo, on the subject of the Mount Arbitration, I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a note from M. de Ruyssenaers, communicating the reply he has received to the letter in which he informed Mr Justice Fuller of M. Savornin Lohman's opinion in regard to the delay caused by the Anglo-French Agreement of the 18th October last for the selection of an Umpire by the two Arbitrators in that arbitration.

I have &c.

(Signed) HENRY HOWARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 81

M. de Ruyssenaers to Sir H. Howard

M. le Ministre,

La Haye, le 21 Mars 1905.

POUR faire suite à ma communication du 27 Février, j'ai l'honneur de faire parvenir à votre Excellence copie d'une lettre, datée du 27 Février dernier, par laquelle je lui ai fait connaître l'opinion de M. de Savornin Lohman au sujet du délai dans lequel les deux Arbitres, désignés par la Grande Bretagne et la France, devaient procéder au choix du Sur-Arbitre.

Je vous prie d'agréer, &c.

(Signed) L. H. RUYSSENAERS

Inclosure 2 in No. 81.

Mr Justice Fuller to M. de Ruyssenaers.

Supreme Court of the United States,

Chief Justice's Chambers, March 13, 1905.

Dear Mr Secretary General,

I BEG to acknowledge the receipt of your two letters of the 27th February, the one inclosing copy of the letter of his Excellency, Count Nigra, dated the 23rd February, and the other copies of Dr. Lohman's communication of the 26th February, and of yours to the Ministers of France and Great Britain.

I accepted with reluctance the view of my colleague that, in the circumstances, the delay in the selection of the Umpire was an imperative necessity. I did not care to discuss the matter by cable.

Pray tender my regrets to Dr. Lohman, and accept, &c.

(Signed) MELVILLE W. FULLER.

No 82.

*M. Cambon to the Marquess of Lansdowne. — (Received March 30.)**Ambassade de France, Londres
le 27 Mars, 1905.*

M. le Marquis,

MON Gouvernement, auquel j'avais eu soin de donner connaissance de la note de votre Seigneurie en date du 19 de ce mois, me charge de faire savoir à votre Seigneurie qu'il ne peut que prendre acte de la promesse qui y est faite d'omettre à l'avenir le nom du Sultan de Mascate des documents qui seront ultérieurement présentés au Tribunal Arbitral pour l'affaire des bontres.

Les arguments invoqués dans la note en question pour justifier, en raison d'un droit "moral", l'introduction aux débats de la personne du Sultan.

Le jour même de l'accord intervenu entre nos deux Gouvernements j'avais eu soin de déclarer que nous admettions l'arbitrage sur l'interprétation de nos Conventions avec la Grande Bretagne ou des Déclarations communes aux deux pays, mais que nous n'entendions en aucune façon accepter les demandes d'arbitrage qu'il plairait au Sultan de Mascate de nous adresser.

C'est à la suite de la remise par votre Seigneurie d'un projet de note qu'elle m'avait soumis et qui envisageait précisément l'intervention éventuelle aux débats du Sultan de Mascate.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) PAUL CAMBON.

No 83.

*India Office to Foreign Office. — (Received March 30.)**India Office, March 29, 1905.*

Sir,

WITH reference to Sir E. Gorat's letter of the 18th March, I am directed by Mr. Secretary Bradrick to acknowledge receipt of the 22nd March as to the arrangements to be made for

Viceroy
Consul

necessary steps to be taken in connection with the proposed visit of the British Majesty's representative to the Sultan of Mascate.

I am, &c.
(Signed) A. GO.

No. 84.

*India Office to Foreign Office. — (Received March 30.)**India Office, March 29, 1905.*

Sir,

WITH reference to the telegram from the Viceroy of the 27th instant on the subject of the Aden delimitation, I am directed by Mr. Secretary Bradrick to suggest for the consideration of the Marquess of Lansdowne, that the attention of His

Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople should be drawn to the importance of avoiding any ambiguity in the undertaking of the Turkish Government as to the delimitation of that portion of Subah territory which we are surrendering, to the north of the line which has been accepted as that of the demarcation.

I am, &c.
(Signed) A. G. DILEY

No 85.

India Office to Foreign Office. — (Received March 30.)

Sir,

India Office, March 29, 1905.

I AM directed by Mr. Secretary Bradrick to acknowledge receipt of the 17th and 21st instant relative to the complaint made by the Turkish Ambassador at London as to a building which is said to have been erected by the orders of the British naval authorities on the mainland.

The despatch, which is being sent to the Turkish Ambassador, states that Mr. Bradrick does not intend to take any action on which, as the Turkish Ambassador has stated, he is not prepared to take any action.

I am, &c.
A. G. DILEY

No 86.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne. — (Received March 31.)

(No. 189,
My Lord,

Constantinople, March 27, 1905.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 172 of the 21st instant, I have the honour to report that Mr. Richardson, British Vice-Consul at Hodeidah, informs me that altogether 15,000 troops have landed at that place since January. Of these, 10,000 are now marching under Riza Pasha for the relief of Sanaa, which, although hard pressed, is still holding out. Two thousand more left on the 24th for Mokka en route for Haifa.

The insurgents have captured Hajje and several garrisoned towns in South Eastern Yemen, and it is stated that they intend to move on Kaila.

According to advices from Jeddah, dated the 6th March, three steamers, viz. "Abdul Kader" (Turkish), "Alsace" (French), and "Tirreno" (Italian), are proceeding to Akaba to embark about 6,000 troops for Hodeidah.

I am also informed that six vessels, in addition to the one mentioned in a previous despatch, have been loaded with military stores at Constantinople for the Yemen, and that some, if not all of them, will proceed first to Prevesa to embark the eight Nizam battalions of the Janina division.

It is stated that the Turkish troops are greatly hampered by want of transport, and that Ali Riza Pasha, who is now ready to proceed to the relief of Sanaa, is unable to take any supplies for the garrison. He has requested that he may be supplied with 500 or 600 transport animals, or that he may be authorized to hire 2,000, which are in Hodeidah Post-office, for the purpose of obtaining camels in the Yemen itself.

Since writing the above I have received a telegram from Jeddah reporting that it was expected there that Sanaa would be relieved in a few days, and that the rebels' hopes were diminishing. Hajje was captured on the 24th February with 800 Turkish troops and 12 guns, and Yarima, and Damar, and three other small places with about 400 men in all.

The total number of Turkish troops in the Yemen is estimated at 35,000, besides six battalions which are now arriving from Akaba, and 600 from Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONNOR.

No. 87

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received March 31.)

(No. 190.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, March 27, 1905

WITH reference to my despatch No. 157 of the 8th instant, I have the honour to summarize as follows, information which has reached me from various sources respecting the Turkish military expedition to Nejd:—

It appears that Feizi Pasha, Commander of the expedition, finding the movements of his troops hampered by want of transport, was compelled to leave the bulk of his forces at Wakiyah, a place situate 100 miles on the route to Kasim from Nejd. He has sent word to Ibn Reshid calling upon him to come in person or to send his confidential agent with 300 camels. Efforts are being made to provide the troops at Wakiyah with transport, but as they can only rely on their chief by a desert march of twelve days, it has been suggested that he should be reinforced from a point on the coast which is said to be only six days' distant.

It has been reported to me from Jeddah that Feizi Pasha, having with him only 8,000 troops and artillery, met Ibn Reshid on the 20th February, and that other troops had left Medina to join them, but I do not think that this information, which does not altogether tally with that received from other sources, can be accepted without

Whilst on this subject I may mention that I hear from Basorah that Ibn Saoud's father received 58 hrsa a month from the Turkish Government for ten years till 1903, and that he now demands that payment should be continued from that year.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. H. O'CONNOR

No. 88

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received March 31.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Brodrick, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram to the Viceroy, dated the 28th instant, relative to the Muscat customs.

India Office, March 31, 1905

Inclosure in No. 88

Mr. Brodrick to Government of India.

March 28, 1905

an official recommended by Government of India as Superintendent of Customs. With regard, however, to the proposed guarantee of customs, which might be considered referred for decision to the British Political Agent, His Majesty's Government are of opinion that these measures might be held to be incompatible with the complete Majesty's Government are of opinion that it is desirable to defer any action which it may be decided ultimately to take.

6

No. 89.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received March 31.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and by direction of Mr. Secretary Brodrick, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 30th March, relative to the French flag question at Muscat.

India Office, March 31, 1905

Inclosure in No. 89.

Government of India to Mr. Brodrick

(Telegraphic) P.

MUSCAT arbitration. Political Agent at Muscat telegraphs, on the 26th instant, as follows:—

"French Consul at Muscat has addressed to the Sultan an official

under French protection and whose names the French Government and the British Government have agreed should be given to the Sultan. This communication with the list inclosed, was delivered to the Sultan yesterday evening. His Highness declined to receive the list, and returned it to the Consul with an intimation that he does not admit the French Government's claim to protect the persons named in it, referring the French Government to His Majesty's Government as representing his Highness at the Hague Court. By next mail I am sending particulars to India, and also, in order to avoid delay, to the Foreign Office direct."

We have sent the following reply to the Political Agent at Muscat:

"With reference to your telegram of the 26th instant, we have found

I have consulted you on the subject, to receive the list without prejudice to the question of the right of the French Government to protect the persons named in it.

"We are repeating this telegram to Bombay."

We are sending by to-day's mail the last batch of papers which have to be sent from India for the British Counter-Case.

No. 90

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Connor

GRAT importance is attached by the India Office to avoid undertaking of the Turkish Government that no portion of the Subaida

is all the territory up to the coast, as far north as Hudam, clearly included in this undertaking?

No. 91

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received April 1.)

No. 60)

Telegraphic.) P.

Constantinople, April 1, 1905.

AFTER severe fighting, Sanna was relieved on the 26th March, according to report received from His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Haidra.

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No. 92.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received April 1.)

(No. 61.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Constantinople, April 1, 1905.

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 32 of yesterday on the subject of Aden.

I to-day got a written communication from the Porte, stating that the undertaking respecting non-alienation covers the 550 square miles referred to in my Memorandum of the 11th August last. This was already, in my opinion, quite clear, but the present communication removes all possible doubt.

No. 93.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received April 3.)

(No. 198.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, March 28, 1905.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 189 of the 27th instant respecting the state of affairs in the Yemen, I have the honour to report that the military authorities at Beyrout have received orders to collect from the districts of Acra and Haifa seven battalions of reserves with the least possible delay.

It is stated that these troops are destined for the Yemen, and that they will proceed via the Suez Canal owing to the difficulty of provisioning troops at Maan and on the three days' march to Akaba.

I should add that I learn here that of the troops recently sent to Akaba several battalions, numbering in all 5,183 men, have already been dispatched to Hodeidah by steamers of various nationalities.

I have, &c.

(Signed) N. R. O'CONNOR

No. 94.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received April 3.)

(No. 200. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, March 29, 1905.

WITH reference to my postal telegram No. 159 of the 13th instant, respecting the marriage of the Vali of Bassorah with the Sheikh of Kuwait, and the instructions which I was sending to His Majesty's Consul at Bassorah on this subject, I have the honour to report that having learnt from confidential sources that the question of Bahrain was also occupying the Vali, I sent a further telegram to Mr. Monahan to the effect that he should let the Vali clearly understand that His Majesty's Government regard Bahrain as being virtually under British protection.

Mr. Monahan has now reported that, in a conversation which he had with the Vali on the 23rd instant, the latter said to him that of course the general *status quo* in Kuwait would be respected if such was the decision of the Government, but the relations between the Sheikh and the Vali must be changed. The Sheikh did not pay attention to any request, and the Vali could get back deserters and criminals from Persia, but not from Kuwait. His Excellency admitted that such cases had not occurred lately, but he said the principle was important, and cases of that nature might occur.

Mr. Monahan then went on to say that natives of Bahrain had applied to him for assistance, and that he would do what was necessary.

Mr. Monahan informs me, in reply to my inquiries, that there are eight Turkish soldiers with a sergeant on Bohan Island.

I have, &c.

(Signed) N. R. O'CONNOR

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No. 95.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received April 3.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Brodrick, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram to the Viceroy, dated the 31st March, relative to the Musandam flag-staffs.

India Office, April 3, 1905.

Inclosure in No. 95.

Mr. Brodrick to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) P.

India Office, March 31, 1905.

FLAG-STAFFS on Musandam. Your telegram of the 22nd instant.

Matter has been considered by Defence Committee, and His Majesty's Government have decided to rely for the protection of our interests in the Persian Gulf upon the statement made by Lord Lansdowne on the 5th May, 1903, in the House of Lords, viz., that the establishment by a foreign Power of a naval base in the Gulf will be resisted.

No. 96.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received April 4.)

Sir

Admiralty, April 1, 1905.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit herewith, for the information of the Marquess of Lansdowne, copy of a letter dated the 10th ultimo, with inclosures, from the Commander-in-chief on the East Indies station, relative to the state of affairs at Bahrain.

I am, &c.

(Signed) C. I. THOMAS.

Inclosure 1 in No. 96.

Rear-Admiral Atkinson-Hules to Admiralty.

(Confidential.)

March 10, 1905.

IN forwarding Captain Eastace's letter of proceedings, I have the honour to report that, in accordance with the Secretary of State's instructions to the Governor-General in Council, I placed "Fox," "Sphinx," and "Redbreast" under command of Captain Eastace of the "Fox," and the "Sphinx" and "Redbreast" under command of Major Cox, as defined in the instructions given to him by the Government of India, which were

2. Captain Eastace appears to have so disposed his flotilla that the Sheikh Esa was overawed, and complied with the demands, although he appears to have allowed his Sheikh Ali, and Mullah Achmed, a turbulent priest, to escape.

or that Captain Eastace and the officers and men under him carried out their difficult task with forethought, firmness, and forbearance, and brought a troublesome difference with Sheikh Esa and the Mullah to a satisfactory, because peaceful, solution.

4. The Sheikh is a weak old Chief, and was much under the influence of Sheikh Ahmed bin Ahmed both of whom fled from Bahrain into the country bordering Al Katr.

(Signed) GEORGE L. ATKINSON-WILLES

Inclosure 2 in No. 96.

Captain Eustace to Rear-Admiral Atkinson-Willes

Sir,

"P. 1," at Bahrain, March 2, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that in accordance with your telegraphic orders of 10th February 1905 I left Basrah on the 19th and anchored off Bahrain on the 20th.

I weighed and anchored in the outer harbour. His Majesty's ship "Recluse" arrived at 5 P.M. on the 23rd with Major P. Z. Cox, C.I.E., Political Resident to the Persian Gulf, who landed under a salute of thirteen guns from His Majesty's ship "Sphinx" at 7 P.M.

A salute of five guns was fired by the shore battery at Manamah, under the misapprehension that Sheikh had called upon the Resident; he, however, paid a visit at 8 A.M. on the 24th, at the Residency, Manamah, when he was informed by Major Cox that he was wanted at 9 A.M. on the 25th to hear a message from the British Government.

On the 25th February the demands of the British Government were presented, and their tenour explained to Sheikh Eesa at the Residency, Manamah, by Major Cox.

At 1 P.M. Sheikh Eesa requested Major Cox to help him to surround Sheikh Ali's house. This was promptly done, and an armed escort to cover them was sent to the house. It was then found (5 P.M.) that Ali had fled at noon, after a visit paid to him by his brother-in-law, Abu-ba-ha-bin-Eesa. His half brother, Hamid-bin-Eesa, did not return from his garden near Ar Ruda until the evening of the 25th, and subsequent inquiries showed that Ali had fled to Ar Ruda, of which fortress uncle Khalid is the Governor.

It was generally believed that Ali did not finally quit Bahrain for Al Katr until the 26th. His uncle Khalid arrived at Manamah at 10 A.M. on the 27th, but despite a night spent in chasing Ali (according to Sheikh Eesa, he looked quite fresh, and only a slight shadow of beard was on his face). I was here a balance that had been sent once to Ali's house on receipt of the ultimatum on the 25th, he could not have detained him and the ten men, the majority of whom were followers of Ali.

At 8 A.M. on the 28th, each ship fired a blank charge, which was clearly seen by the towns of Manamah and Muharrag. At 9.30 Sheikh Eesa arrived at the Agency with two bags of 1,000 rupees each, and a draft of his proposed notice on the "Sakhra" question. He stated "That despite all he could do, Ali and the ten men had left." He however, failed to convince me that he had shown any hearty desire to detain them, and throughout the interview adopted a non possumus attitude.

The fact that Sheikh Eesa had in some extent acquiesced with me materially changed the situation; but as he had also shown a considerable amount of ignorance, almost amounting to bad faith, and an intention to delay a settlement, the following further terms were then given to him:

(i.) That Sheikh Hamid should go on board a man-of-war, and remain there as a mark of good faith, pending the capture of Ali, and the settlement of the original terms.

(ii.) To prevent delays, Sheikh Eesa should reside at Manamah instead of Muharrag, during the visit of the Political Resident to Bahrain.

(iii.) Sheikh Ali's town house, furniture, boats, and animals should be given to the British Government.

(Copy attached.)

Item (iii) was agreed to after some demur, but numbers (i) and (ii) were only agreed to

board His Majesty's ship "Sphinx" by Commander Bowman, where he was allowed to employ four of his own domestics, and to see his friends at certain hours.

Sheikh Eesa came over to Manamah on the 27th at 8.30 A.M., and lived with his son Abdullah, during the remainder of our stay at Bahrain.

7. His proximity to the Agency greatly facilitated all subsequent transactions, and prevented any delay which bad weather, by stopping communications between the islands might have caused. His presence at Manamah also ensured pressure to be promptly applied to the Sheikhs or others who tried to obstruct us, or who declined to carry out our wishes.

At a port where shoals and reefs only permit of three hours' work a day near the shore, any obstruction that can be made by sheikhs or others, who refer you to a ruler resident at Muharrag, renders the task of a tide, and in most circumstances to business—e.g., on the 28th, when shipping Ali's camels, &c., the nakhdas of the dhows refused to move until specific orders were given by Sheikh Eesa to do so.

8. Sheikh Abdullah was sent by Sheikh Eesa to clear out the women and servants from Ali's house in Manamah on the 28th, which was then handed over to a guard of sepoy, a company of marines being landed to surround the house while this took place and withdrawn at sunset. On the 27th Sheikh Eesa proclaimed Ali as an outlaw, and on the 28th he was sent to the other Sheikhs.

9. A reward of 10,000 rupees was offered by Sheikh Eesa for the apprehension of Sheikh Ali, and his delivery to any Political officer or man-of-war in the Persian Gulf in order to prevent his intriguing with hostile Chiefs, or from carrying out piratical attacks upon the local traders.

10. Mullah Jasim and Ahmed were summoned to appear before Major Cox on the 27th, but despite an order from Sheikh Eesa to do so, and a promise of safe conduct, Ahmed fled, and only Jasim appeared on the 27th.

11. Mullah Jasim (often called locally "Sheikh"), however, paid several visits to the Agency, and on the 28th, he was sent to "Sphinx" for safe custody. When on board he at once took precedence of Sheikh Hamid (Eesa's son, and recognized as such by the British), and treated Hamid with scant ceremony.

Mullah Ahmed's house was surrounded by marines on the 1st March after the women had been removed, but it was found to contain little else than books, so was left undisturbed.

13. On the 28th the new police force at Manamah were mustered near the Residency for Captain Prideaux' inspection. Their pay was then settled, sergeants selected, and their duties explained. The bazaar master however, declined all responsibility for breaches of the peace committed by sheikhs or their followers, and stated that Sheikh Eesa had appointed another person to look after them.

14. At 8.30 A.M. on the 2nd March, accompanied by Major Cox, I called upon Sheikh Eesa to say good-bye. We then met his son Abdullah and grandson (the eldest son of late Sheikh Salamah), also his brother Khalid, the Governor of Ar Ruda. The visit was a purely formal one, and Sheikh Eesa had no complaints to make, nor news to give us of the persons that had fled.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. B. EUSTACE

Captain and Senior Naval Officer, Persian Gulf Division

Inclosure 3 in No. 96.

Memorandum of Demands made by the Officiating Political Resident in the Persian Gulf upon Sheikh Eesa-bin-Ali, Chief of Bahrain, by order of the Government of India, February 25, 1905.

I AM desirous first to remind you of the long continued friendship and support which have been accorded by the British Government to the Rulers of Bahrain.

2. I have next to remind you that these favours have also been extended to you personally.

Upon the death of your father, Sheikh Ali-bin-Khalifah, the British Government caused the usurper, Muhammed-bin-Abdullah to be expelled, and yourself installed in your father's place. You have ever since received the support of the British Government.

1-17

He will remain there pending a reply from the British Government for the final settlement of this matter.

Should there be any delay in receiving a reply, Hamid will be landed and suitably housed by the Resident.

(Signed) P. Z. COX,
Political Resident, Persian Gulf.

Inclosure 4 in No. 96.

Captain Eustace to Rear-Admiral Atkinson-Hille.

Sir,
"Fox," at Bombay, March 10, 1905
I HAVE the honour to submit a report on the proceedings of His Majesty's ships "Fox," "Sphinx," and "Redbreast" at Bahrein, between the 22nd February and the 2nd March, 1905.

From information obtained from Lieutenant and Commander Hugh G. Somerville, it appeared that on Muharrak Island Sheikh Esa controlled 510 men armed with Martini rifles, while a large number of men armed with Arab guns might be expected to join him on Bahrein Island. If Sheikh Ali joined hands with his uncle Khalid, the Governor of Ar Rata, he could place against us 500 riflemen, and a large body of men armed with native weapons.

The town of Muharrak is of considerable extent, with a labyrinth of small streets. Sheikh Esa usually resides there during the winter, in a house 600 yards distant from the usual landing-place. The population of Muharrak is entirely Arab, and no foreigners live there.

Manamah is the business and residential town for all foreigners in Bahrein, while Sheikh Esa resides there during the summer months. Sheikh Ali, who claims the Governorship of this town, lives in a large rambling house, with several courtyards on the sea-front. The fanatical Mullaha, Jasim and Achmed, also live there, while nearly every important house in Manamah belongs to a Sheikh, or member of the Utubi tribe.

In both towns are a large number of huts and mat-sheds, hence it is impossible to shoo either, if a general conflagration is to be avoided. Since all those whom we might have to protect live scattered about in the town of Manamah, I deemed it necessary to detail the "Sphinx" and all marines to co-operate with the Resident guard for their protection. The remainder of the "Fox" and "Redbreast" crews were under orders to destroy Forts Bu Mahir, Arad, and Manamah on the signal being made to commence hostilities.

To attain these objects, the forces of Esa and Ali were kept apart by mooring "Redbreast" in Khor Kahiya, in such a position as to command Forts Bu Mahir, Arad, and Manamah without endangering the towns. His Majesty's ship "Sphinx" was moored off Sheikh Ali's house and in sight of Fort Manamah, which also could be shelled without risk to the town. His Majesty's ship "Fox" being 7,650 yards from Fort Manamah and 9,000 from Fort Arad, every available man was sent to the two former ships. Owing to bad weather, the shallow channels, and extensive reefs, the majority had to be at their posts before dark on the 28th, and slept in their blankets or great coats, until they returned to this ship on the 28th February or the 1st March.

On the 20th, at 8 A.M., a signal gun was fired by each ship to indicate that in one hour's time hostilities would commence.

At 8.30 Sheikh Esa arrived at the Residency, Manamah. As he evidently showed a desire to personally comply with the terms, so far as his family would permit, it was decided to coerce them, and the following measures were then undertaken:

1. The seizure of Sheikh Ali's town house, furniture, boats, and animals.
2. The voluntary surrender of Sheikh Hamid as a hostage and as a sign of good faith.
3. That Sheikh Esa should reside at Manamah during our stay in order to facilitate any further questions that might arise.

Measures 2 and 3 were strongly resisted. It was only by the threat of destruction of all forts within an hour that Sheikh Hamid eventually surrendered and was sent to the "Sphinx" (copy of Agreement attached).

The marines were then landed and surrounded Ali's house, which was occupied by a sepoy's guard as seen from the water. Their personal effects had left. After dark, on the 20th, the marines searched the house and during the night search-

lights were kept working upon the towns by "Fox" and "Redbreast,"

On the 27th all Sheikh Ali's movable property was removed from the town, and on the 28th the British flag was hoisted on the roof of the house, and the British flag was hoisted on the roof of the house.

Since the turbulent Mullaha, Jasim and Achmed, have never been seen since, and were once to meet the Political Resident. Mullah Achmed however, together, Mullah Jasim, surrendered himself as a hostage, pending the return of Achmed, thus saving him from being outlawed and his property seized. The presence of a small body of marines that surrounded Mullah Achmed's house undoubtedly expedited this matter.

The authority of Sheikh Esa was, however, not to be over-looked. He accompanied our working parties, while marines and sepoy's covered them and overawed the mobs that gathered.

On the 25th Seedie Boy Maiden Hansa died at 10.45 P.M., but owing to the imminence of hostilities on the 26th the interment did not take place until the 27th, when it was performed.

On the 1st March the marine company of the landing party was broken up. For the next few hours in the rain and wind, they showed an excellent spirit, and proved themselves to be a very capable body.

The failure in several instances of the marines' boots is the subject of a special report.

His Majesty's ship "Sphinx" was moored off the town of Manamah, where her presence by preventing the forces of Muharrak and Manamah from combining, conducted very materially to the peaceful termination of these operations.

On the 2nd March, all details having rejoined their respective ships, an order was issued for the "Fox" to proceed to Khor Kahiya, and to land the furniture seized in Ali's house.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. B. EL STAKE.

No. 97

India Office to Foreign Office — (Received April 1)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and to inform him that, in accordance with the instructions therewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosures in a letter from the Foreign Secretary, Calcutta, dated the 2nd March, relative to the Political Agent at Kowit.

India Office, April 3, 1905

Inclosure 1 in No. 97.

Telegrams from and to Major Cox and Government of India.

(Not printed.)

8. Such being the case, and if in future we drop all the name, might it not be possible for the Tribunal to hold, if they were case, as submitted to them, was entirely as between the British and the Sultan not being

the matter of their flag matters, and so pronounce an open verdict

The Sultan of Muscat would then be in with the French as best he could, we having in his behalf.

I had, as a matter of fact, been under the impression all along that the French had throughout the negotiations quite recognized the fact that we had the Sultan's brief, and that they had consented to negotiate with us on that understanding.

1. The Government of India will realize that their letter of the 20th February received by the last mail steamer, has given me very little opportunity to deal with the French case but in order to make the most of the time, I am leaving for Muscat by the same mail which takes this letter. One of the copies of the French case, with such marginal notes as I have been able to make within the time, will, I hope, reach Calcutta by the same mail as this, and the other will post from Muscat after seeing Major Grey and filling in from Agency records what I cannot answer from those available here.

I shall hope to obtain from the Sultan the written application suggested in paragraph 2 of your letter No. 830 E. B.

6. I have one or two points to mention which I think might have been, and perhaps might now be, made use of:—

(a) No capital, or even mention, has been made of the capture of a French fleet in Mozambique waters by the Portuguese, in March 1902.

Seven hundred odd slaves were rescued, and about 150 Sooris killed or captured. It will be seen from my Muscat letter No. 396, dated the 12th September, 1902, that some of the Arabs apparently did try to claim French protection.

But apart from this it is important as showing that the slave trade to Soor flourished up till quite lately almost to as great an extent as ever, in spite of French Consular reports to the contrary, and also as demonstrating, if any demonstration were wanted, that Soor, the place of origin of all these French protégés, can boast of one of the most depraved communities on the face of the earth. It is from such a place that France has elected to recruit her "renégades."

(b) Similarly it might be pointed out, without suggesting that any French protégés were concerned, that the inhabitants of Mascara Island, who lately massacred a shipwrecked crew under most barbarous circumstances, are of the same tribe, the Jonebeh, as that to which many of the flag-holders belong.

Many of the residents of Soor are related to and intermarried with inhabitants of Mascara, and there is constant intercourse between the island and Soor, and as will be seen from the Customs returns furnished to the Sultan by the Bombay Government, Mascara is to a large extent supplied with food by the dhows of the French protégés. I am speaking with knowledge though from memory, but will check this statement by inspection of the returns at Muscat.

(c) Referring to the Delai case, mentioned on p. 21 of our statement, I note that one important detail has been overlooked, namely, that M. Laronce in preferring his official claim to the Chief of Deba, still used the name of the original man, Salim-bin-Mahomed, although Salim had been dead two years and M. Laronce knew it, as he had corresponded with Seyyid Faisal about his effects. I have M. Laronce's original letter.

7. I shall submit a further communication from Muscat, and if it is not in time to catch this mail it will be sent direct to the Political Secretary, India Office, copy being forwarded to Calcutta simultaneously.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. Z. COX.

73

No. 99.

India Office to Foreign Office—(Received April 4.)

Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and by direction of Mr. Secretary Pringle, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram from Mr. Fitzmaurice, dated to-day, relative to the Aden delimitation.

India Office, April 4, 1905.

Inclosure in No. 99

Mr. Fitzmaurice to Sir N. O'Connor

(No. 11)

(Telegraphic.) P

April 4, 1905

ADEN delimitation. Turkish Commissioner has now received a telegram referred to in my Nos. 7 and 9. Report of this telegram (which he has shown to me in confidence) is as follows:—

He is authorized (1) to recognize A as the line of boundary to the north-east, and (2) to accept definition of the line of boundary to the north-east in the event of my wishing to insert them specifically in the proceedings he is about to publish. He is, however, not to insert them in the proceedings unless I claim to the other three places. (I enclose my telegram No. 7, paragraphs 3 and 4.) I shall be glad to be informed whether there is any objection to my forwarding

I am proceeding this evening on a few days' visit to Aden, at the request of the Governor of Bombay, who arrives there to-morrow.
(Reprinted to Viceroy, Foreign Department, and Secretary of State for India.)

No. 100.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne—(Received April 4)

(No. 64)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Constantinople, April 4, 1905.

With reference to Mr. Fitzmaurice's telegram No. 11 of the 4th April on the subject of Aden communicated to Foreign Office by India Office, the 4th April, the Ottoman Commissioner's suggested compromise would seem advantageous as far as the information in our possession enables me to judge.

No. 101

Foreign Office to India Office

Sir,

Foreign Office, April 4, 1905.

I AM directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 29th ultimo relative to the arrangements proposed by the Government of India for the delimitation of the Aden Protectorate, and will cause the necessary steps to be taken to enable Captain Knox to act as Vice-Consul at Aden when Mr. Lorimer proceeds on leave.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDBERSON.

India Office to Foreign Office.—Received April 2

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, at the direction of Mr. Secretary Broderick, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 4th April, relative to the Aden demilitation.

Indian Office, April 5, 1905.

Inclosure in No. 103

Government of India to Mr. Brodrick

April 4, 1905.

(Telegraphic) P

Aden delimitation My telegram of the 27th ultimo.
Resident at Aden telegraphs as follows.

• Fitzmaurice strongly advocates pillars being erected at Sheikh Said only couple of pillars would be all that would be required there and no escort would be needed of the boundary, throughout it.

both to furnish escort and to provide for line of communication, with complement of officers, would have to be employed capable to supply locally. I am informed by Fitzmaurice that no survey officers would in any case be required."

In view of the fact that the country with which we are brought into contact by the adoption of the Mudariba Sheikh Said line is not actually occupied by the Turks, and is not to be alienated to other Powers at any time, the Government of India are inclined to share Fitzmaurice's opinion, to which the Government of India are in accord, viz., that pillars are unnecessary. But, whatever view be taken as to the necessity of pillars, it is clear that they would involve the risk and expense which would be incurred in any case be required.

Turkey

(Repeated to Bombay and Aden.)

No. 103

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received April 8.)

(A.) THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies and by direction of Mr Secretary Bradrick requests that you will be good enough to inform him whether or no he may be permitted to visit the Colony of New South Wales during his tour of inspection in Australia. He has been informed that there are some persons in the Colony who are interested in certain Arabs in whom he is interested.

India Office, April 6, 1905.

1

ENCLOSURE 1 to No. 103.

Major Cox to Government of India.

Bathurst, February 12, 1905.

our to forward, for the information of the Government of India, copies of the correspondence on the subject of the deportation to Constantinople of certain Arabs in whom the Sheikh is interested.

therefore refer it to the Government of India for any action that they may feel called upon to take.

I shall duly report any information on the subject that I may receive from the Political Agent, Kowloon.

Inclosure 2 a No 101

George Angus is Major's Cousin

VE the honour to forward herewith the translation of a letter received

DISCUSSION

2. The firm of U'-khatthar to which Fabad-bin-Khalid, also mentioned in the letter, belongs, is the most wealthy house in Hawtat.

3 The news of the arrest of these people had reached me two days before Shethk
Mu-sarra, a better known person, reported that they had been arrested at the instance of Iba Rashid, who is said to
have managed to get the orders issued at Constantinople.

The explanation of the whole affair, according to Kowett opinion, is as follows:

The great Turkish official, his Excellency the Vali of Baghdad, a friend of Sherif Mubarak, was, however, not of his own Government at least, by coming to terms with Ibn Saud. As all influential people in Nejd were tired of the constant fighting and anarchy that has prevailed there for the last five years, and as Sheikh Mubarak and Ibn Saud were forced to defer to public opinion and give up the hopes of British protection for Ibn Saud, his Excellency's efforts promised to be successful. This solution meant nothing less than the extinction of Ibn Rashid, who directed this last blow at Sheikh Mubarak to destroy all chance of his return to power.

5. It is reported here that on receipt of the orders to imprison the merchants, his Excellency telegraphed a remonstrance on the ground that the men were respectable and influential merchants. He received a reply to say that they must be sent at once.

6. The Sheikh was, I hear, much disturbed at the news of the arrest of these men, and the report is, in my mind, confirmed by this letter which was brought to me by his confidential Secretary, who had evidently received orders to explain the matter to me thoroughly and to do all he could to induce me to take the warmest interest in the case. The tone of the letter is quite different from any I have hitherto received from the Sheikh. It reads more like an Indian Petition than an Arabic letter.

7. I asked Mullah Abdullah whether Sheikh Mubarek would go to Sofwan after a
at 11.30. He said he would go to Sofwan when he could. He said "I
fighting." He went on to tell me how Sheikh Mubarek hated the Turks, and that Ibn
Saood's coming had been delayed, but that the latest news was that he was due at Jahra
on the 27th instant, and that Nasir-bin Saood, the messenger whose arrival here was
reported in my diary under date the 15th January, was now in Bussorah.

* The immediate object of the Sherah's letter may possibly be attained by the good offices of His Britannic Majesty's Consul at Basorah, but it is difficult to know

hat to suggest as a remedy for these constant skillfully-disguised attacks aimed at
he Kh M Gbarek as a punishment for having sought our protection

9. There remains nothing for me to add except that I saw Sheikh Mubarek on the morning of the 23rd instant. He confirmed all that has been said above without my asking for confirmation, except that when I asked if Ibn Saood would go to Seftwan he said that he was not sure, that both Ibn Saood and the people of Aneyza would be greatly alarmed at the turn things have taken, and that unless some measures were taken to counteract the latest move of the Turks, or rather, as he put it, of Ibn Rashid and Yusuf-bin-Brahim, Ibn Saood would return direct to Nejd, the Turkish troops would march from Nejd Ali, and Nejd would again be plunged into war. He said apparently quite seriously that if his Excellency's advice was not taken with regard to local matters of this kind he ought to resign.

10. Incidentally it may be of interest to note that he contrasted the behaviour of the Indian Government, who allowed Yusuf-el-Brahim's Bombay house to trade in perfect security in spite of the fact that Yusuf's men had fired on the crew of a British man-of-war, wounding two men, and that of the Turkish Government, who, on the accusation of men like Ibn Rashid and Yusuf-el-Brahim, threw the affairs of an important mercantile firm into confusion.

He again impressed upon me the fact that Yusuf-el-Brähim, who, it was arranged, should stay at the Hejran, was back in Nejed (Mesched Ali) in close communication with the Mushir of Bagdad, and doing all the mischief he could.

Inclosure 3 in No. 103

Человек Мухоморок to Captain Knox.

(After compliments)

15 Zent-Rude, 1822 (January). 101.

SULEIMAN-US-SHUBEYLI is an influential merchant in Basra, lives himself in the town of Aneyzah (Nejd), and his relation, Hamid-ul-H. Basorah agent. This man, Suleiman-us-Shubeyh, is an able man and a manager of important affairs. For some years there have been business relations between him and myself, and besides one of my own subjects, a merchant Fahad-ul-Khalid-ul-Khazari, is in business relations with him and his partner and friend; and the bulk of the trading moneys of the aforesaid house are to return to me and Fahad-ul-Khalid.

Now Hamid-ul Hamid, who is agent for Rule _____ Shabeyli, has been seized by the Turkish Government, and they have imprisoned him on _____ pt of an order that they should take him away to Constantinople.

This merchandize is the most of it ours, and the money that belongs to us and to Fahad-ul-Khalid is about 1,00,000 reals (4,000 £), and the business relations between us can be verified from the account-books in the house.

Now the house is empty, and no one is looking after the property and offices.

Hamid-ul-Hamied has given the keys to Farhan, the son of Fahad-ul-Khalid, in Bussorah, and Farhan also is afraid even to open the house. He only keeps the keys with him, and looks after matters from a distance, but does not take care of them.

Now our affairs are in danger, and Haid-ul-Mammad has just sent a letter to Fahad-ul-Khalid asking him to look after his affairs, appointing him his sole agent, and saying that he should send one of his brothers or that Farhan is present in Bussorah.

Now we, from the practices of seditious evil-workers, our enemies, and the listening of the Turkish Government to their false inventions, are unable to appoint Farhan or any one of the brothers of Kabad. We fear lest afterwards they should seize him—except with the written consent of the Vali of Bassorah, that the man should arrange the affairs of the house or manage the merchandize, or rather gather the things and account-books together and bring them to Kowet. And we inform you of everything that happens to us. This petition was necessary, and in your high sight is sufficient, and may you remain guarded

No. 105.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received April 6.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr Secretary Brodrick forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosures in a letter from the Foreign Secretary Calcutta, dated the 9th ultimo, relative to the imprisonment of the Bussorah Agent of the Sheikh of Koweit

India Office, April 5, 1905

Inclosure 1 in No. 105.

Major Cox to Government of India.

Rushier, February 18, 1905.

WITH reference to the correspondence ending with Mr Townley's despatch, dated the 2nd November, 1904, I have the honour to forward, for information, the purport of an informal reminder which I ventured to send to His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires, Constantinople, and of his reply, dated the 13th and 14th February respectively.

2. It will be seen therefrom that the efforts of His Majesty's Embassy to effect the release of Sheikh Mubarek's Agent, Abdul Aziz-bin-Salim, in connection with the Baram Id have been unsuccessful.

Inclosure 2 in No. 105

Major Cox to Mr Townley

(Telegraphic.)

Rushier, February 18, 1905

WITH reference to previous correspondence, the proximity of the Baram Id prompts me to express hope that inclusion of the name of Sheikh Mubarek's Agent among cases deserving of clemency on this occasion may not be forgotten

Inclosure 3 in No. 105

Mr. Townley to Major Cox.

(Telegraphic.)

Constantinople, February 14, 1905

Your telegram of yesterday

Our action had no result at the first Baram beyond an order issued by the Grand Vizier to the effect that Abdul Aziz-bin-Salim should receive lenient prison treatment.

I fear the circumstances have not changed sufficiently to warrant the hope that a renewed appeal to-day would meet with any better success

No. 106

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received April 6.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr Secretary Brodrick forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosures in a letter from the Foreign Secretary, Calcutta, dated the 9th March, relative to the application by a native of Bahrein to the Bombay Government for a passport to proceed on a pilgrimage to Kerbela.

India Office, April 5, 1905

Inclosure 1 in No. 105

Government of Bombay to Government of India

Sir, Bombay Castle, January 24, 1905
I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 21st November, 1904, for a passport, stating that he was proceeding on a pilgrimage to Kerbela, and to forward herewith a copy of the report of the Officer of the Bahrein Agency for report, and a copy of that officer's report is forwarded herewith. Bahrein bin-Mahomed's statement is that he is a native of Bahrein, and is a subject of the Government of India, but as it has always been the practice of this Government to grant passports only to the following three classes of persons, viz.:-

- (1) British subjects,
- British subjects by naturalization
- (3.) Subjects of protected native States in India.

the applicant's request to be granted a passport was negative

2. I am, however, to inquire whether in future the Governor-General in Council would be prepared to view with approval the grant to Bahrein subjects of passports similar to those granted to subjects of protected States in India.

I have, &c
(Signed) C. H. HILL.

Below Government Memorandum dated November 23, 1904.

No. 18565, 14 of 1904.

Inclosure 2 in No. 106

Mr H O Gell to Government of Bombay.

Police Commissioner's Office, Bombay,
December 1, 1904.

THE Undersigned has the honour to report that the applicant is an Arab Mahomedan of the Shiah faith, and is 35 years of age. He makes the following statement:—
I am a native of Bahrein, and have been visiting Bombay off and on for the last twenty years, also by a Suni Mahomedan named Haji Mahomed Musa, who resides in Bahrein, and is the manager of a mosque at Nagdevi Street:—

I was born at Bahrein, in the Persian Gulf, and so were my father and ancestors. My father, who kept a coffee-shop at Nagdevi Street, died in Bombay about twelve or thirteen years ago. I am a hawker in gold and silver rings set with various kinds of stones. I am a married man, and live with my wife at Nagdevi Street. I intend proceeding on a pilgrimage to Kerbela, and have been granted a passport by the Government of India, aged 21 years, and born in Bagdad. She is of the same caste and

(Signed) H. G. GELL,
Commissioner of Police.

Inclosure 3 in No. 106.

Government of India to Government of Bombay.

Sir, Fort William, March 9, 1905.
I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 24th January 1905, and to inform you that the Government of India approve the action of the Government of Bombay in

refusing to comply with an application for the grant of a British passport made by one Salim-bin-Mahomed, a native of Bahrain.

2. With reference to paragraph 2 of your letter, I am to say that should the Government of India hereafter consider any change in the practice of the Bombay Government to be desirable, a further communication will be addressed to you.

I have &c.
(Signed) L. RUSSELL,
Deputy Secretary to Government of India.

No. 107

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received April 10.)

My Lord,
Constantinople, April 2, 1905.
I have the honour to acknowledge your telegram No. 32 of that date, and to inform you that the undersigned has been instructed to make clear that the territory in question is not claimed to belong to the Sultan's territory.

In order, however, to leave no possible doubt about the question, I have the honour to send you a written communication, of which I enclose herewith a copy, in answer to a *pro-memorandum* addressed to them, of which likewise a copy is enclosed, stating that their previous Declaration of the 29th December, 1904, covered the 550 square miles referred to in my *Memorandum* of the 11th August, of which a copy was enclosed to your Lordship in my despatch No. 446 of the 12th August, 1904.

I venture to think, however, that the India Office exaggerate the importance to be attached to this Declaration, inasmuch as its original object was to prevent the construction at some future time by another Power of a canal from Khor Ghera to Sheikh Mirad, and that when it was settled that the frontier ended at Sheikh Mirad instead of at Jebel Housa we practically removed all danger on this score, if indeed it ever existed, of which I am sceptical.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONNOR.

Inclosure 1 in No. 107.

Pro-memorandum addressed to Sublime Porte

DANS le télégramme adressé, le 28 Shubat, 1320, au Gouverneur-Général du Yémen relativement à la délimitation des Cantons de Subah et de Yaffa, copie duquel a été communiquée à l'Ambassade Britannique par la note verbale de la Sublime Porte du 14 Mars, 1905, mention est faite de la condition que le Gouvernement Ottoman s'engage à ne pas céder à une autre Puissance quelconque "le territoire appartenant à la ligne aboutissant à Cheikh Mirad," ligne qui est actuellement adoptée comme frontière entre le Vilayet de Yémen et le Canton de Subah.

L'attention de l'Ambassade a été attirée sur les malentendus qui pourraient surgir du manque de précision de cette phrase.

Il est entendu qu'en parlant du "territoire appartenant à la ligne aboutissant à Cheikh Mirad" la Sublime Porte, ainsi que l'Ambassade, a voulu désigner le territoire, large à peu près de 550 milles carrés, se trouvant entre la ligne aboutissant à Cheikh Mirad et celle antérieurement proposée par le Commissaire Britannique comme frontière véritable du Canton Subah, et qui aboutit à la mer près de Kudus.

Pour éviter pourtant toute possibilité de malentendu à l'avenir, il serait à désirer que la Sublime Porte veuille bien notifier par écrit que cette interprétation est conforme à la vérité.

Constantinople, le 1^{er} Avril, 1905.

Inclosure 2 in No. 107

Note by Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs

EN réponse au *pro-memorandum* de l'Ambassade de Sa Majesté Britannique en date d'aujourd'hui, le Ministère des Affaires Étrangères a l'honneur de lui faire observer que les instructions données au Gouverneur-Général du Vilayet du Yémen par le télégramme N° 222 du 28 Shubat, 1320, qui concernent le territoire appartenant à la ligne qui aboutit à Cheikh Mirad, sont conformes à la Déclaration contenue dans le *pro-memorandum* adressé à la Sublime Porte le 28 Shubat, 1320, et que les milles carrés mentionnés dans le *pro-memorandum* précité.

Le 1^{er} Avril, 1905.

No. 108.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received April 10.)

Constantinople, April 4, 1905.
I have the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Lieutenant Colonel Mansell, Military Attaché to the Embassy, concerning the frontier of the Yémen. I am sending the extract from Colonel Mansell's despatch, relative to the frontier of the Yémen.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONNOR.

Inclosure in No. 108.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansell to Sir N. O'Connor

Jaffa, March.
I HAVE the honour to report that the eight battalions of the Jerusalem Brigade left about three weeks ago for service in the Yémen, going by way of the Suez Canal, and embarked on transports. The remainder of this province—i.e., Ghaza and Khan Yunus—marched direct from Ghaza to Akaba the season being now favourable.

The remainder marched from Jerusalem eastward to Amman and other stations on the midway.

Clothing was only available for about half the men from the local depôts, and equipment was entirely wanting. Their rifles—the small-calibre Mauser—and clothing.

When mobilized the battalions numbered 700 to 750, but service was most unpopular and desertions were frequent, so that on arrival at Akaba the average

men were forbidden to offer the usual sum of £ T 50 exemption money to obtain discharge or to provide a substitute. Ali Pasha, commanding the brigade, is reported to have made a good deal of money by secretly taking exemption fees and

was proposed to bring him to trial, as direct evidence was obtained of his

the Mutassarif of Jerusalem, and the Chief Staff Officer now acting as Co-

however, work is now progressing on the main line to Medina

[1517]

(Signed) F. R. MAUNSELL,
Lieutenant-Colonel,
Military Attache

No 213.)
 My Lord,
 Constantinople, April 1, 1906.
 WITH reference to my despatch No. 187 of the 21st ultimo, I have the honour to
 transmit herewith to your Lordship further paraphrases of telegrams which I have
 received from the British Legation at Constantinople.
 I am, Sir,
 (Signed) N. R. O'CONOR

Constantinople, March 25, 1903.

(Je.) P.

WITH reference to your yesterday's telegram No 0,

In the list of nine canteens communicated in 1873 to Porte, and also in that

premises as a consequence of your communication of 1902 a list

was included. Moreover, Indé of February 1903 leaves no doubt on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. B. O'CONNOR.

Mr. Lamb succeeded in inducing the Grand Visier not to refer to the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, but to instruct the Minister of War to send orders to the Commandant-General of the Army of the Danube.

tioners that "the question of sending troops into the nine cantons was one with which they had nothing to do since it had been disposed of between the Embassy and the Porte, while as to the non-alienation clause they were to abide by the instructions already sent."

I accordingly sent to Mr. Fitzmaurice, in reply to his telegram No. 10 of the 27th ultimo, repeated by him to your Lordship, the telegram, of which a paraphrase is inclosed herewith.

I have, &c
(Signed) N. R.

Inclosure in No. 140.

Sir N. O'Connor to Mr. Fitzmaurice

(No. 13.)

Constantinople, March 30, 1905

WITH reference to your telegram No. 10 of the 27th instant, I see no necessity for seeking to modify instructions to Ottoman Commissioner, as there can be no doubt as to the territory to which the non-alienation clause refers.

In view of the fact that the matter has been dropped by mutual consent, I agree with orders sent to Turkish Commissioners that they have nothing to do with question of sending troops into the nine cantons.

Although I think mention in *precis-verbatim* of fact that Aulaki is one of the nine tribes is superfluous, you can insert it if you think it advisable, as Turkish Commissioners have been told that it is reckoned in the nine cantons.

No. 111

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received April 10.)

Sir,

India Office, April 7, 1905.

WITH reference to previous correspondence on the subject of the Aden colonization, I am directed by Mr. Secretary Brodrick to inclose, for the consideration of the Marquess of Lansdowne, a copy of a telegram from the Government of India indorsing a recommendation of the British Commissioner,* which is supported by the Government of Bombay, that the demarcation proceedings on the Subah boundary should, for the present at least, be confined to the erection of two pillars at Shekhl Sari.

Subject to Lord Lansdowne's concurrence, Mr. Brodrick proposes to approve this

I am, &c
(Signed) HORACE WALPOLE

No. 112

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received April 10.)

WITH reference to Mr. Townley's despatch No. 90 of the 7th February last, the Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Brodrick, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosures in a letter from the Foreign Secretary, Calcutta, dated the 16th ultimo, relative to practices in the neighbourhood of Katif.

India Office, April 8, 1905.

* Inclosure in No. 107.

Inclosure 1 in No. 112

Captain Trevor to the Government of India

Bussorah, February 26, 1905

WITH reference to correspondence of the 7th February last, regarding the pirate Ahmed bin Selman, I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, an extract from a despatch from His Majesty's Acting Consul at Bussorah on the subject.

Mr. Monahan's Report shows clearly that the local Turkish authorities are making a serious effort to arrest the pirate, and that an effective action on their part can be

Inclosure 2 in No. 112

Acting Consul Monahan to Major Cox

Extract

Bussorah, February 11, 1905

WITH reference to your despatch of the 5th ultimo, I have the honour to inform you that the Vah today stated that no reply had been received to the last orders sent the day before on the 6th October, 1904, to pursue and capture Ahmed bin Selman and his companions. The Vah further stated that fresh orders to the same effect would now be sent to him.

No. 113

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received April 11)

India Office, April 11, 1905

WITH reference to your letter of the 13th and 31st May, 1904, on the subject of the Turkish military posts at Bahyan Island, I am directed by Mr. Secretary Brodrick to send for the consideration of the Marquess of Lansdowne, a copy of a letter from the Government of India, inquiring whether, in the opinion of His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, the time has not now come for instructing His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople to remind the Porte of previous assurances given as to the maintenance of their military station on the south-east corner of the island and to press for its withdrawal.

Mr. Brodrick is of opinion that, nearly a year having elapsed since the date of the conversation between Sir N. O'Connor and the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs reported in his despatch No. 52 of the 19th May, 1904, and no action having apparently been taken by the Turkish Government in the matter, His Majesty's Ambassador might now be instructed, in accordance with the authority conveyed to him in Lord Lansdowne's despatch of the 10th May, 1904, to press for the removal of the post on Bahyan Island.

It is a matter for consideration whether His Majesty's Ambassador might be further be instructed, in accordance with the suggestion contained in his despatch No. 219 of the 5th April, 1904, to state to the Porte that, unless the Turkish force is withdrawn, His Majesty's Government will be constrained to support the Sheikh of Kuwait in establishing a post of his own on the island.

I am, &c
(Signed) A. G. G. G.

Inclosure in No. 113

Government of India to Mr. Brodrick

Sir,

Fort William, March 16, 1905.

WE have the honour to refer to our secret despatch of the 14th February, 1904, and to the subsequent telegraphic correspondence ending with your telegram of the 18th May, 1904, on the subject of the measures that should be taken to obtain the

evacuation of Bubiyan Island by the Turkish troops which are at present stationed there.

2. In that despatch we suggested, for your consideration, the following alternative proposals:-

(a) That the Porte should be informed that we were unable to recognize their right to maintain a station on Bubiyan and should be requested to withdraw their troops, while, at the same time, we should establish a post on behalf of Sheikh Jubarak on the northern end of the island, opposite to the southern anchorage. We pointed out that he had several boats, and could easily, with small support from us, prevent Turkish troops from crossing the Khir Sudbiyah or channel between Bubiyan and the mainland on the west.

going to the Sheikh, and that, unless the Turkish force were withdrawn, we should

the Turkish posts at Um Kassar and Al Gheit. We observed that, in this case, the Turks would probably retire and the island would remain unoccupied. The Sheikh would then resume possession and it would only remain for us to carry out hereafter such further measures as might be necessary for the maintenance of our legitimate interests.

3. Since then, the 4th alternative has been taken:-

In April 1904 His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople suggested to the Marquess of Lansdowne that he should first request the Porte of his previous recommendation and the maintenance of a Turkish military station on the southern corner of the island, and press for its withdrawal, and that then if after a few months, his representations had produced no effect, the second alternative intimation referred to above should be made to the Turkish Government.

On the 14th May, Sir N. O'Connor was authorized to take action in accordance with his own suggestion, and on the 18th May we were informed that, should the intimation remain for some time without effect, the active measures recommended in our despatch to you of the 4th February would be considered further.

On the 16th May, Sir N. O'Connor reported to Lord Lansdowne the representations which he had made to the Porte. His Excellency carried out his intention of referring the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the remarks which he had made in 1902 in regard to the establishment of Turkish military posts at Um Kassar and Bubiyan Island but did not, it appears, avail himself of the authorization which had been given him for making the alternative intimation originally suggested by us, and practically confined himself to saying that he trusted that the Turkish Government would see the propriety of removing the Turkish soldiers to be withdrawn, and would save him from the duty of returning to the subject in a more unpleasant form, as he would be obliged to do unless the matter were arranged within a short time.

4. Since then no further representation appears to have been made to the Porte until the 3rd November, when His Majesty's Charge d'Affaires pointed out that the continued maintenance of the post was looked upon by His Majesty's Government as an infringement of the *status quo*, and that the written protest made by His Majesty's Embassy still remained unanswered. Reference may also be made to the fact that, on the 30th December, you informed Lord Argyll that His Majesty's Ambassador was unable to accept his suggestion that the removal of the Political Agent at Kuwait should be made conditional on the removal of the Turkish post on Bubiyan Island.

5. Nothing has, however, happened since the date of that original recommendation to induce the Government of India to depart from their contention as to the importance of obtaining by some means the removal of the Turkish troops.

6. In our previous despatch on the subject we have already furnished you with a full statement of the reasons which have led us to adopt this view, and we need not now do more than point out that the Turkish troops, meanwhile remain in the island, and that it is evident that the representations made have not been treated with sufficient

withdrawal of their troops, are in some degree increasing their presumptive right of dominion over Bubiyan in the eyes of the world in general, and that consequently every additional day of inaction will render it more difficult for His Majesty's Government to insist ultimately on evacuation.

7. In these circumstances, we have the honour to inquire whether His Majesty's Government do not consider that the time has now come when His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople might with advantage be provided with definite instructions to make

to the Porte the intimation which was authorized in May 1904, and also whether will not agree to take into their immediate consideration the advisability of adopting the alternative local measures recommended by us in February 1904, which we still consider to be of urgent importance for the proper protection of British interests in the Gulf.

We have, &c.

(Signed)

C. RZON
K. H. F. NEH
E. R. FLIES
A. T. ARUNDEL
DENZIL IBBETSON
H. ERLE RICHARDS
J. P. HEWETT
E. N. BAKER

No. 114

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Connor.

Foreign Office, April 11, 1905.

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 200, Confidential, of the 29th ultimo, at the end of which you report that you have been informed that eight Turkish soldiers and a sergeant still remain in Bubiyan Island.

Your Excellency does not state whether you are taking any action in the matter, but, in view of the length of time which has elapsed since you last addressed the Turkish Government on the subject, it seems a question for consideration whether, as proposed in your despatch No. 249 of the 5th instant, the Porte should now be informed that, unless the Turkish force is withdrawn, we shall be constrained to support the Sheikh of Kuwait in establishing a post on the island.

The Government of India are of opinion that the Sheikh will feel considerable dissatisfaction at the temporary withdrawal of Captain Knott from Kuwait, which will shortly take place, and there is thus an additional reason for endeavouring to obtain a satisfactory solution of the question which has arisen at Bubiyan.

I should wish to learn whether your Excellency considers that the moment is opportune for a representation in the sense I have indicated, or whether you think that further delay is desirable.

I am, &c.

(Signed)

LANSDOWNE.

No. 115

India Office to Foreign Office. Received 10/11/05.

THE Indian Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Hardwick forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosures in a letter from the Foreign Secretary, Calcutta, dated the 2nd March, relative to quarantine arrangements in the Persian Gulf.

India Office, April 11, 1905.

Enclosure 1 in No. 115

Government of India to Foreign Office.

Foreign Office, February 28, 1905.

I AM directed to suggest that you should make inquiry of His Majesty's Consul at Basrah as to what a solution there is for the stationing of the Kuwait Naval Force, referred to in your letter dated the 4th instant, in the subject of the alleged discrimination shown by the Turkish quarantine authorities at Basrah against Kuwait ships.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

C. ST. JAMES CLERKE.

Enclosure 2 in No. 113

Minister of War to the effect of the

Minister of War to the effect of the

WITH reference to paragraph 4 of my letter dated the 14th January, I have the honour to inform you of the Government of India, copy of a letter, dated the 14th January with enclosure which I have received from Captain Knox, Political Agent, Kuwait, in the subject.

Enclosure 3 in No. 113

Captain Knox to Major Law

January 16, 1905

IN reply to your letter, dated the 5th January last, in which I am requested to report on Turkish quarantine arrangements as affecting subjects of Kuwait, I have the honour to forward herewith for the information of your office, by my servant, Mr. M. A. Khan, a copy of a letter, dated the 14th January, from the Secretary of the Turkish Consulate at Kuwait, in the subject.

The Turkish Consulate at Kuwait, in the subject, appears to be of the opinion that the results of the inquiry will be satisfactory, but I doubt in any case whether more satisfactory results could be obtained.

Turkish Quarantine Regulations are notoriously easy to evade, and it is probable that recently special instructions have been made to see that they apply strictly to Kuwait vessels.

Enclosure 4 in No. 113

Notes upon the Methods of Quarantine at Basorah against Subjects of Kuwait

ON their arrival at Basorah they wait in their boats five days in quarantine, and after the five days period they are put on shore and washed and fumigated, and if necessary are put in a tent when they are released, and as their quarters in their boats are the same performance is gone through.

The people of Basorah and Kuwait are treated in the same way. The fees paid are the same as those of Kuwait.

As for Persian subjects, they are quarantined for twenty-four hours only, and they pay a fee of 2 rupees.

The Nakhodas from whom this information was obtained say that when the people enter Basorah at having to pay lighter fees than others, the quarantine is a matter of justice, but that it was also a matter of justice to allow it to be so.

It is a matter of justice, but that it was also a matter of justice to allow it to be so.

No. 115.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received April 12.)

1111. Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Bredin, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of enclosure in a letter from the Foreign Secretary, Calcutta, dated the 14th March, relative to the subject.

India Office, April 11, 1905.

Enclosure in No. 116.

Extracts from the Diaries of the Persian Gulf Political Residency for the week ending February 5, 1905

Kowloon

5. January 24.—It is reported that Ibn Saud has arrived at Subahkya in connection with the anticipated meeting with the Vali of Basorah at Sofwan, where Sheikh Mubarek is to join them. Sheikh Mubarek is, apparently, very nervous about this meeting.

Yusef-el-Ibrahim is reported to have returned to Duff, and is busy buying camels, &c., for Ibn Saud.

14. January 24.—Abdul Husein-ben-Jihad, brother of Haji Mansur, late Acting Katmakam of Katif, who has arrived from Katif, states that orders have been received in Katif and El Hasa from the Turkish Government, calling upon the people of those districts to contribute towards the Katif people have repaid, through the Katmakam, that they cannot afford to subscribe the money demanded.

Extracts from the Diaries of the Persian Gulf Political Residency for the weeks ending respectively February 12, 19, and 26, 1905.

Kowloon

16. February 7.—In a telegram dispatched by the "Ruler of Kuwait and Chief of the Tribes, Mubarek," to the Vali of Basorah, Sheikh Mubarek stated that he had received the orders sent with the Vali's messenger; that Abdul Rahman-ben-Faisal had arrived at a spot eleven hours' distance from Jahra, where he had been stopped three days on account of the cold, but would, please God, arrive on the 4th February at Jahra, when he (Mubarek) would inform the Vali of his arrival. He added that Abdul Rahman would confirm Mubarek's statements as to his (Abdul Rahman's) loyalty to the Sultan (see entry No. 5 in Diary for last week).

Kowloon

2. January 31.—Sheikh Mubarek, Chief of Kuwait, left for Jahra en route to Sofwan, for the proposed Conference.

4. February 5.—Reports have reached Kuwait that Ibn Saud and Sheikh Mubarek have left Jahra for Sofwan with about 1,000 cavalry, camels, and men.

5. February 15.—Reports have reached Kuwait that the Turkish Government has given him honours and decorations. The Turkish Government will post their soldiers at Basorah, Kowloon, and Riyadh. The three prisoners (see entry No. 3 in Diary for week ending the 5th February) who are at present in Bagdad will be released. It is also said that Ibn Saud and his people will now vacate Zibair and Basorah.

Later information received by the Political Agent through Sheikh Jahar-ben-Mubarek is to the following effect:—Sheikh Mubarek writes: "His Excellency the Vali of Basorah came last Wednesday (the 8th February) to see us. I told him I was with him. There was a long conference, and late in the afternoon his Excellency

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2 A

returned to Bussorah. On Monday night, at 9 P.M. he came back to our camp and brought an order from Constantinople, addressed to Ibn Saud, appointing him Ruler of Nejd on behalf of the Turkish Government, and concluding with the following words: 'The Government will put soldiers in El Kasim, and there will be official relations between you (i.e., Ibn Saud) and them, and all of you will be in the service of the Sultan. As for Ibn Rashid he shall have nothing to do with affairs in Nejd.'"

Bushire

12 February 17 -- News has been received that the Mushir (Commander-in-chief) of Bagdad has gone to the interior of Nejd with Turkish soldiers.

No. 117

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received April 12)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Brodrick, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosures in a letter from the Foreign Secretary, Calcutta, dated the 16th ultimo, relative to a piratical attack on Bahrain boats by members of the Bahrah section of the Marrah tribe.

India Office, April 12, 1905

Inclosure 1 in No. 117.

Captain Trevor to Government of India.

Bushire, February 26, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, a copy of a letter which I have received from the Assistant Political Agent, Bahrain, regarding a piratical attack made on two Bahrain boats by some members of the Bahrah section of the Marrah tribe.

2. Captain Prideaux is probably not wrong in the inference he has drawn of Sheikh Isa's attitude, and the matter will no doubt be discussed by him with the Resident, who is in Bahrain at present.

Inclosure 2 in No. 117.

Captain Prideaux to Major Cox.

Bahrain, February 17, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of a statement made by two Arab subjects of the Chief of Bahrain and recorded by my Munshi Haji Abhas, relative to a piratical act recently committed by some thirty-five Bedouins of the Marrah Bahrah tribe on two Bahrain boats' crews, in which a slave boy belonging to the Bahrainis was carried off as a prize, and two of the boatmen were dangerously wounded.

2. The two sufferers are now under the treatment of Dr. Thomas, of the Arabian Mission, through whom I first heard of the affair. I am informed that, when the other boatmen laid their complaint before Sheikh Isa, they were most unfavourably received, and I have had no communication on the subject from the Chief, which surprises me considerably.

It seems possible that the Chief's peculiar reception of the news and his subsequent reticence is due to the fact that he has hitherto failed to obtain any satisfaction in the earlier and more important affair of his cousin's murder by the same tribe.

3. I have communicated the facts of the recent case to His Majesty's Consul at Bussorah, with a view to the Turkish authorities being moved to take suitable action, but I do not suppose that any satisfaction will be forthcoming until I have been provided with the steam-launch which I understand has been for some time under the consideration of the Government of India.

Inclosure 3 in No. 117

Statement of Sultan bin-Sayf bin-Thakafel and Mahomed bin-4 de bin-bur-ahkhar

WE, with seven others in one "nashawa" and another "nashawa" with eight men including a Sidi, slave of Ali bin Isa bin-Thakafel, sailed from Hudd on the 28th Thulca, 1322 (the 3rd February, 1905), and landed at Ras-Abu Hekel, on the coast of Hass, south of Ojar.

There we commenced collecting firewood. All of a sudden we were attacked by Bedouins of the tribe of Marrah-al-Belash. We ran away from them, and tried to get back to our boats.

The Bedouins hotly pursued us, firing at us at the same time, and at last succeeded in catching the Sidi boy, whom they carried off.

While we were raising the anchors of our boats, we two cousins, Sultan and Mahomed, received two bullet wounds each. Sultan one bullet passing through the left leg, and the other through the right leg and penis, Mahomed, one bullet on the penis, which was divided into two, and the other in the right hand, both bullets passing through.

No. 118

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received April 12)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Brodrick, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosures in a letter from the Foreign Secretary, Calcutta, dated the 16th ultimo, relative to the Piratical Gulf Gazetteer to it.

India Office, April 12, 1905

Inclosure 1 in No. 118

Mr. Lormier to Government of India.

(Telegraphic)

Muscat, February 28, 1905

LEAVE Muscat to-day in "Lawrence" for Pirate Coast near Bahrain. My trip is abandoned.

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Mr. Lormier to Government of India

Bushire, March 12, 1905

At Bahrain for India

Inclosure 3 in No. 118

Captain Trevor to Government of India.

Bushire, February 25, 1905.

IN continuation of the correspondence ending with my telegram dated the 21st instant on the subject of complaints made by the Turkish Government, I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, a copy of the marginally noted letter from Captain R. O. Knox on the subject, and to submit a report in detail.

2. Mr. Lormier gives the following explanation as far as the complaints relate to the movements of the Gazetteer party: No visit to Nejd by any members of the Gazetteer party was ever contemplated. The visit to Nejd by the Gazetteer party after proceeding to Karbada returned to Bagdad via Hilla, and

have now finally left Turkish Arabia. Mr. Larmer has abandoned his idea of a visit to El Hassa, and will keep you informed as far as possible of changes in his programme.

with "five vessels" can only
Marine Survey when surveying

Inclosure 4 in No 118.

Captain Kuer to Major Cox

ately report regarding the Turk
in Foreign Office telegram No. 100-F.B.

2 I can only conclude that the first portion of the first compound refers to the survey mission taken by the commander of Royal Indian Mtl. it was "Investigator" while the latter portion probably refers to Mr. Leckley's visit to Um-Kaer. The British frontier may be near it, and it is hardly necessary to say that no attempt was made by me to induce Arab tribes to submit to M. Durak. I doubt if I spoke to or met with twenty persons outside my camp following between Suwayn and my return to Jahra, as I carefully avoided all communication with the natives at either Um-Kaer or Suwayn, and the rest of the country was uninhabited.

3. As regards the second complaint, I have never heard of nor seen the British flag by the officers of British Indian Mail steamer "Invicta" on the Shekha residence at Mirrah, a conspicuous and convenient point for survey operations. The flag was a large blue and white one, and the fact of its being hoisted had no political significance.

No. 119

Indian Office to Foreign Office - (Received April 12)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Lindrick, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosures in a letter from the Foreign Secretary, (Nientita), dated the 16th March, relative to the case of a Kowait subject accused of wounding a Persian negro, and the disposal of a Kowait dhow wrecked on Hormuz Island.

India Office, April 12, 1903.

Lecygonium No. 119

Reverts from the Persian Gulf Political Residency Offices for the Weeks ending
respectively February 5 and 18, 1906.

Endnote

—The case in which Khaled bin-Khanna, a Kuwait subject, vice of the British India Steam Navigation Company, was accused in a case of having wounded with a knife Ghulam Ali, a Persian negro, has been settled at a fine of 200 rupees.

The case was tried by the Karguzar (Persian Foreign Office Agent), Bushart, in the presence of a representative from the Residency, and the Karguzar's decision was commonly entered to the Persian Minister for Foreign Affairs, who authorized him to settle it as he proposed. The Turkish Vice-Consul tried to intervene early in the case on the alleged ground that Khared, being a kowessi, was a Turkish subject, but his pretensions were not availed.

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Hunder Ablass

8. February 7.—His Majesty's Consul and Assistant Resident visited Hormuz, Larak, Benjam, and returned to Bandar Abbas to-day.

At Hormuz the Kalantar, or Persian Governor of the island, called upon Lieutenant Shinkespear and consulted him with regard to the disposal of the ruins of a Kowait dhow and cargo which had recently been wrecked on the island, and saved by the Kalantar's men. The owner and Nakhoda were Kowait and Muscat subjects respectively, and, out of a crew of seventeen, eight men had been drowned. The Deputy Governor of Bunder Abbas had sent a message to the Kalantar directing him on no account to permit the Customs authorities to remove the salvaged property.

Contrary messages came from the Customs Director, and subsequently a number of tufangchus arrived and had evidently been instructed to remove the goods by force.

His Majesty's Consul accordingly refrained from any intervention, but informed the same concerned that, in the event of any complaint being received from Kuwait or Muscat subjects in regard to the salvaged goods now to be removed, the Customs Department would be held responsible.

In the evening Lieutenant Shakespear left for Larak Island.

No. 120

The Marquess of Londonderry to Sir N. O'Connor.

(No. 10.)

(Telegraphic.) P

Foreign Office, April 12, 1903

(10) you are not objecting to the erection of one pillar at Sheikh Said only as suggested by Mr. Fitzmaurice, who thinks it unnecessary to put demarcation pillars along the greater portion of the Subaib boundary line, which follows well defined natural features?

The Government of India and the India Office agree to this suggestion, as the work can be done without escort, and expense and risk of illness in consequence of the hot weather will be avoided.

No. 121.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received April 13.)

(No. 66.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Constantinople, April 18, 1905

I SEE no objection to the proposal relative to the Subachi boundary contained in your Lordship's telegram No. 40 of yesterday.

No. 122.

The Marquess of Londonderry to M. Cambon

Your Excellency,

Noted Office, April 19, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 27th ultimo on the question of the introduction of the name of the Sultan of Muscat in the British Case, as one of the Parties in the Muscat Blow Art transaction.

Your Excellency states that the French Government took note of the promise made by me that, in the further documents to be presented by His Majesty's Government to the Tribunal, the name of His Highness will not appear as one of the Parties to the Arbitration. It is not necessary, therefore, to enter into further argument as to the grounds on which His Majesty's Government originally thought it right to insert His Highness's name.

But as your Excellency has referred to what passed between us on the 25th May, 1903, in regard to the Agreement for referring the question at issue to arbitration, I think it right to observe that the passage which, at your request, was omitted from the draft of my note on the subject, provided for the reference to arbitration of any questions which the Sultan might desire to raise. It is the fact, as your Excellency

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states, that you objected on behalf of the French Government to accepting any demands for arbitration which the Sultan might himself put forward.

But I did not, at the time, understand you to state that your Government wished to preclude the Tribunal from taking cognizance of the Sultan's views upon any questions affecting his interests which the British or French Government might desire to refer to it for settlement.

His Majesty's Government will communicate your Excellency's note, with this reply, to the Tribunal, in the same manner as the previous correspondence.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 123.

Foreign Office to India Office.

Foreign Office, April 13, 1905.

Sir, THE Marquess of Lansdowne has had under his consideration, in communication with His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, your letter of the 7th instant respecting the recommendation made by the British member on the Aden Boundary Commission, that the demarcation proceedings on the Subah boundary should, for the present at least, be confined to the erection of two pillars at Sheikh Said.

I am directed by his Lordship to state that he concurs in Mr. Secretary Brodrick's proposal to approve the course suggested by Mr. Fitzmaurice.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON

No. 124

Foreign Office to India Office

Foreign Office, April 13, 1905.

Sir, I AM directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to transmit to you herewith, to be laid before the Secretary of State for India, copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople,* reporting that Mr. Fitzmaurice had raised two new points. It appeared to his Excellency unnecessary to insist, and that he had telegraphed to Mr. Fitzmaurice accordingly.

Lord Lansdowne proposes, if Mr. Brodrick concurs, to approve the action taken by Sir N. O'Connor in the matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) E. GORST

No. 125

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received April 16.)

No. 70.)

Reference to my telegrams, Nos. 64 and 66, of the 4th and 13th instant, on the subject of the Aden frontier.

Fitzmaurice has been waiting some days for instructions and further delay is very undesirable. I am, &c.
I authorize the acceptance of arrangement respecting the two pillars on the Subah frontier and respecting Jubah in the north-east?

No. 126

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received April 17.)

(No. 226.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, April 8, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith a despatch from Lieutenant-Colonel Maunsell, Military Attaché to His Majesty's Embassy, reporting on the mobilization of the St. Jean d'Acre Brigade for service in the Yemen.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. E. O'CONNOR.

Inclusion in No. 126

Lieutenant-Colonel Maunsell to Sir N. O'Connor

Beirut, March 24, 1905

I HAVE the honour to report that the Akka (St. Jean d'Acre) Redif Brigade is being mobilized in accordance with orders given, as reported in a previous despatch.

The difficulty is being experienced in getting the men to go to the Yemen, as they sell their land or their possessions to try and buy themselves off, or they desert; so that yesterday an urgent telegram was received from Constantinople that it was of the utmost importance to the "integrity of the Empire."

Equipment is almost entirely wanting; the men go in ordinary clothing to the sea-ports, and receive their Mauser rifles and clothing at Hodeida, whither they have been sent from Constantinople.

The Akaba route has had to be abandoned for these troops owing to the difficulty of provisioning the men, and they are going through the Canal in the ordinary way.

A transport with time-expired men arrived here a few days ago from the Hejaz, and the men spent the day at the Government Konak, vainly endeavouring to obtain arrears of pay which they had been promised on arrival at Beirut. When visiting the Vali my conversation was interrupted by the half-angry, half-despairing shouts of some 300 of these men ranged round the courtyard below.

Officials hurried in with whispered messages, but the Vali waived them aside, saying the Treasury was empty, and smilingly continued his conversation.

The men were still patiently sitting round the courtyard when I passed in the evening.

There is no doubt that a serious Turkish defeat in the Yemen would react most unfavourably on the discontented elements of the population in Syria.

The insurgents in the Yemen are almost entirely men of Syrian race drawn from these districts, and that very few of the Osmanli or dominant race are employed for service there.

Men from Syria have no desire to quarrel with Arabs of the Yemen, and are, if anything, sympathetic towards them, whom they look upon as belonging to the same race; so that this constant drain of men to prosecute an arduous campaign from which few survive to return, and in which no glory is to be gained, is not without a sinister effect in this country.

The men are patient and submissive to an extraordinary degree, but the discontent caused by the expedition has already begun to make the turbulent or discontented elements in the country speak out much more boldly than usual, so that, in the event of further Turkish defeats, coupled with the withdrawal of so many regular troops from the country, this may have a most disturbing effect.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. MAUNSELL, Lieutenant-Colonel,
Military Attaché.

No. 127

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received April 17.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Brodrick, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 15th April, relative to the Aden delimitation.

India Office, April 17, 1905.

Inclosure in No. 127

Government of India to Mr. Brodrick.

April 15, 1905

YOUR TELEGRAM. Your telegram of the 5th April.

We are of opinion that His Majesty's Government might accept the compromise whereby Rubaton, Nawa, and Dthahani remain with us, while Juban is ceded to the Turks. Further, as regards boundary north-east, we consider demarcation is unnecessary. It will, we assume, be made clear that the line which is accepted as the basis of boundary to the north-east is one running true north-east from the pillar last erected. If this assumption is correct, we agree that inclusion in proceedings of statement that Aulaki are British need not be insisted upon, provided that in some other way the fact is put on record officially.

No. 128

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received April 17.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Brodrick, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 15th April, relative to the Muscat Arbitration.

India Office, April 17, 1905.

Inclosure in No. 128.

Government of India to Mr. Brodrick.

April 15, 1905

(Telegraphic) P.

MUSCAT Arbitration. Please see the letter, dated the 21st March, from Major Cox to the Government of India. We have nothing to add to the points which are dealt with in the separate note by Cox. We consider that in the British Counter-Case particular stress should be laid on the following points:—

1. The inclusion in the list of French protégés of three deceased men, as showing how untrustworthy the French data are.

2. The denial of the sovereignty of the Sultan, as implied in the refusal of French protégés at Muscat to discuss their status with His Highness, an attitude in which they apparently had the countenance of the French Consuls.

3. The evasion of customs, as shown by the small amount of food manifested at Bombay for Muscat, as contrasted with the large amount manifested for Mascara. Our local officers have been instructed to communicate to you direct by telegraph any instances which may be specially proved, of evasion of customs due to the use of French flag and resulting in loss of revenue to the Sultan.

See also the letter from the Sultan of the 21st March as to the protégés in the list. We consider a strong effort should be made to obtain from the French the details requested by His Highness.

As regards the remarks of Major Cox concerning Oman, these should not be taken as superseding Lorimer's map and notes.

(Repeated to Major Cox and Captain Grey)

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No. 129

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Connor

(No. 46.)

(Telegraphic) P.

Foreign Office, April 17, 1905.

THE Government of India have telegraphed as follows on the subject of the Aden delimitation, referred to in your telegram No. 70 of yesterday:—

[Repeats Viceroy's telegram of April 15, in India Office, April 17, 1905.]

His Majesty's Government accept the arrangements as to Juban and the two pillars on the Subah frontier. You may inform Mr. Fitzmaurice, and send him instructions to sign the compromise.

No. 130

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received April 18.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Brodrick, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of telegrams from the Viceroy, dated the 4th and 5th instant, relative to the Aden delimitation.

India Office, April 17, 1905.

Inclosure I in No. 130.

Mr. Brodrick to Government of India.

(Telegraphic) P.

India Office, April 4, 1905.

ADEN boundary. Your telegram of the 27th ultimo.

A written communication, dated the 1st instant, has been procured from the Porte by His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, in which it is definitely stated that the area of 550 square miles referred to in Sir N. O'Connor's Memorandum of the 11th August, 1904, is covered by the Turkish non-alienation undertaking.

Inclosure 2 in No. 130.

Mr. Brodrick to Government of India.

(Telegraphic) P.

India Office, April 5, 1905.

ADEN boundary. Please let me have your views on the suggestion made in Fitzmaurice's telegram No. 11 of the 4th instant regarding Yaffa sub-districts. The Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople thinks that possibly the proposed compromise may be to our advantage.

(Repeated to Aden)

No. 131

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received April 18.)

Sir,

India Office, April 18, 1905.

WITH reference to your letters of the 5th and 17th instant, transmitting copies of Sir N. O'Connor's telegrams Nos. 64 of the 4th instant and No. 70 of the 16th instant, relative to the boundary of the Aden Protectorate, I am directed by Mr. Secretary Brodrick to inform you that the Marquess of Lansdowne has a copy of a telegram from the Viceroy,* dated the 15th April, expressing concurrence in the

* See Inclosure in No. 127.

arrangement respecting Juban proposed in Mr. Fitzmaurice's telegram No. 11 of the 4th April.

I am also to inclose a copy of a telegram which Mr. Brodrick addressed to the Viceroy on the 17th instant respecting the Sabahi frontier.

I am, &c.
A. GODLEY

Mr. Brodrick to Government of India

(Secret.)
(Telegraphic.)

India Office, April 17, 1905

YOURS 17th instant. Sabahi boundary.
His Majesty's Government concur in proposal that present operations should be limited to erecting couple of pillars necessary at Sheikh Sa.
(Repeated to Aden.)

132

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received April 19)

(No. 241)
My Lord,

Constantinople, April 18, 1905.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 189 of the 26th ultimo, and to my telegram No. 60 of the 1st instant, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship figures of telegrams from His Majesty's Consular officers at Jeddah and Hodeida, dated, respectively, the 13th and 14th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONNOR.

Inclosure 1 in No. 132.

Consul Devey to Sir N. O'Connor.

Telegraphic)

Jeddah, April 13, 1905.

6th April, Sunna appeared about to surrender to the Imam.
Izzet and Raza Pashas were surrounded and helpless near city

Inclosure 2 in No. 132

Vice Consul Richardson to Sir N. O'Connor

Hodeida, April 14, 1905

My telegram of the 5th March announced the capture of Raza Pasha reached Sunna with 600 troops, only after severe fight, 30th March. Remainder of his force deserting him. Insurgents captured cannon, provisions, transport, rifles, quantity of ammunition, all garrisons on line of communication surrounded. Position of capt. precarious, and general situation grave. 32nd battalion of Albanian Turkish troops expected. 1,000 Albanians arrived the 13th April

No. 133

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received April 19.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Brodrick, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of the correspondence relative to the revised Treaty with the Amir of Dthala.

India Office, April 18, 1905.

Inclosure 1 in No. 133

Government of India to Mr. Brodrick

(Secret.)
Sir,

Fort William, March 9, 1905.

WITH reference to your Secret despatch, dated the 23rd September, 1904, relative to the conclusion of a revised Treaty with the Amir of Dthala, we have the honour to forward herewith copies of the Treaty, which has been ratified by the Viceroy and Governor-General in Council, together with copies of the papers.

We have, &c.

Signed,
CURZON
KIDDER
E. R. ELLES
A. T. ARUNDEL
DENZIL IBBOTSON
H. FRILE RICHARDS
J. P. HAWITT
E. N. BAKER

Inclosure 2 in No. 133

Government of Bombay to Government of India.

Lonbny Castle, November 29, 1904

WITH reference to the correspondence ending with Mr. Samora Cocks' Confidential letter, dated the 17th October, 1904, I am directed to forward herewith, for the information of the Government of India, a copy of correspondence regarding the revised Treaty with the Amir of Dthala.

Inclosure 3 in No. 133.

Major-General Mason to Government of Bombay.

(Confidential)
(Memo.)

Adm. Residency, November 5, 1904.

HAS the honour to state that he considers it necessary to forward the following letter as it contains the views of the Political Officer, Dthala. Although he does not share the pessimistic views regarding the feelings of the tribes towards the British, still he is of opinion that Major Merewether's recommendation regarding stipends is sound.

There is no doubt that the Amir of Dthala, owing to his unjust treatment and the Undermagned is to have an interview with him on the 7th instant, when he will speak to him on this matter, and will also take the opportunity of impressing upon him the necessity of adhering to the Treaty in every particular. The Undermagned does not, however, propose to ask the Amir to sign the new Treaty until Government have perused the letter now forwarded and have passed their orders upon it.

Inclosure 4 in No. 133.

Major Merewether to Lieutenant-Colonel Davies.

(Confidential.)

Dthala, October 29, 1904

WITH reference to copy of letter, dated Sunna, the 22nd September, 1904, from the Under-Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, forwarded with your indorsement of the 10th October, 1904, I have the honour to offer the following remarks for the consideration of the Resident:—

2 In paragraph 2 of the letter the following sentence occurs, "the wisdom of the direct grant of stipends to a tribe such as the Kotabi, who are dependents of the Amir of Dthala, seems, moreover, to be exceedingly doubtful."

It is true that the Kotabis are nominally dependents of the Amir of Dthala.

It is not I who have been the cause of the present position of the Amir of Dithala and of the Kotaibi. The Amir has never occupied so strong a position as he does at the present moment. This, however, is solely due to the presence of British troops.

I will now give a brief description of the present position of the Amir of Dithala and of the Kotaibi. The Amir has never occupied so strong a position as he does at the present moment. This, however, is solely due to the presence of British troops.

It is not I who have been the cause of the present position of the Amir of Dithala and of the Kotaibi. The Amir has never occupied so strong a position as he does at the present moment. This, however, is solely due to the presence of British troops.

The only alternative he would possess would be:—

- (1) To intrigue with the Turks.
- (2) To grant all the demands of the Kotaibis as to the levying of dues on the Habeshain and to renounce his suzerainty over them.
- (3) To hire fighting men to assist him in retaining his position. His own troops would probably try to strengthen his position by intrigues with the Turks.
- (4) To ask our assistance.

The Amir would certainly, in the first instance, ask for our assistance. He would probably try to strengthen his position by intrigues with the Turks.

He would attempt to fight the matter out. He himself has more than once told me that, in the event of our withdrawing from Dithala, he would at once make for Aden. In any case, his exchequer once exhausted, he would have to leave the country.

He is so universally detested by the Arabs that there is no doubt that we have

the position occupied by the Kotaibis with reference to the Lower Yaffa as well as the other Hadfan tribes. I can only ascribe our having done so to the fact that the country was comparatively new to us, and that accurate local knowledge was therefore difficult to obtain.

I would point out, with reference to the additional grant of 100 dollars per month, that a few Arabs armed with rifles, numbering about fifteen. Had we not been here he would have had to maintain a force to protect his own territory without any pecuniary

Mokalla, it will be seen that the Amir has taken advantage of our presence to save money, and that since our arrival in the country he has never been in a position to fulfil his Treaty obligations. By this I mean that he is bound to preserve order in his territory and to assure the safety of the trade routes. If, however, he were called on suddenly to send a sufficient force at once to maintain order, and which is entirely within his territory, he would be absolutely unable to do so.

Further, I have ascertained that the Amir has not even sufficient authority in the country to threaten the people that he will get us to come and attack them if they fail to obey his orders.

He has, moreover, as I have reported, deliberately broken his agreement as to the

again raising the scale of dues. In some cases I may mention that he was charging ten times the amount sanctioned by the 1854 Agreement.

Further, it is a matter of common knowledge that the Amir has exerted himself to the utmost to prevent any reconciliation between the Kotaibis and ourselves. His object has been to stir up the Kotaibis to outrages on the trade routes with a view to their being utterly crushed by us before we leave this country.

Finding, however, that his intrigues were of no avail, and that I was on the point of receiving the submission of Mahomed Saleh, he sent his eldest son, Naser, secretly to a place on the borders of the Kotaibi country, with a view to an interview with Mahomed Saleh. The sole object of this was undoubtedly to forestall me and to make peace, probably on the lines of a general renunciation of all suzerain rights.

By Mahomed Saleh, being already in close communication with me, refused

to mention this incident, and have gone into the whole question at considerable length, as I know it to be one of considerable importance to our future in the Hinterland, and also with a view to illustrating the different degrees of reliance to be placed on the good faith of the Amir and of Mahomed Saleh.

As regards the position occupied by the Kotaibis in the Hinterland on account of their territorial extent or numerical strength, I may say once that it is comparatively insignificant. The points, however, on which, in my opinion, sufficient stress has not been laid are, (a) what influence have the Kotaibis in Lower Yaffa, and (b) amongst the other Hadfan tribes.

With regard to (a) it will be remembered that the Kotaibis were originally Lower Yaffa. The tribes to the present day between the Kotaibis and the Lower Yaffa are very strong and closely drawn. The Kotaibi Sheikh, Mahomed Saleh in addition to tribal ties, is a close personal friend of Abdalla bin Moham, the Lower Yaffa Sultan.

In July last I had good reason to believe that the Kotaibis, assisted by other Hadfan tribes, intended to again attack the post at Sulek. At the same time I received reliable information that a force of between 15,000 and 17,000 men was being collected round Al Khara, the headquarters of the Lower Yaffa Sultan.

The object undoubtedly was a simultaneous attack on Dithala and Sulek. This joint movement I ascertained to have been due to reports spread by intrigues of our intention of attacking the Kotaibis. I found that constant communications had been passing between Mahomed Saleh and Abdalla bin Moham.

Since matters have come to a more satisfactory state between us, there has been little correspondence between these two Chiefs.

It is not necessary for me to remark on the serious position in which we should have found ourselves had this simultaneous attack taken place.

The salient point is that a British force of about 1,200 men, many invalids, with only two camel-battery guns, with an insufficient supply of food and ammunition, 100 miles from any further supply of reinforcements, would have found itself opposed to a body of Arabs numbering possibly 25,000, and mostly armed with French rifles. The reinforcements available at Aden would have been insufficient to effect a diversion, even had they succeeded in forcing the two parties on the road.

The prime mover in this was Sheikh Mahomed Saleh, the Kotaibi, and I have quoted this instance to show to what extent his friendliness or otherwise to us may affect any future delimitation of the north-east boundary, which must pass through both Upper and Lower Yaffa.

I considered the matter to be urgent, and, after receiving permission to do so, I invited Mahomed Saleh to meet me at Sulek. He declined to do so, and eventually I had to meet him in his own country. I gathered enough at that meeting to confirm my belief that the information as to the intended attack on us was founded on fact, and that had not reinforcements and guns been sent up country and the tribes not thus learnt that we were ready for them, the attack might actually have taken place.

With reference to the Hadfan tribes, it is true that the Chiefs all assured me that whatever happened they would not join any one against us. The Alawi and Hijali were possibly sincere in this statement. Had hostilities actually broken out it is more than possible, however, that the Sheikhs of these two tribes would have been unable to resist the temptation of joining the Kotaibis. The Alawi and Hijali would assuredly have gone against us, and, taking advantage of the general confusion

As a result of Mahomed Saleh's hostility, it was therefore perfectly possible, even probable, that we should have had against us the following tribes:-

Upper and Lower Yaffai, although apparently separate, they join together against an external enemy.

The K. Arabs, Dthan baris, Abdulleh, Dairi, Iskra, probably the Hijalis, and the Alawis, the Subahis, and the Haushabis; and it remained to be seen which side the Amir's subjects would take.

5. Since my arrival in Dthala, I have given a great deal of attention to this Yaffai-Kotabi question, realizing as I did that, as far as our relations with the tribes went, it was the most important point of all.

I found Mahomed Saleh in a state of sullen defiance. At first he utterly declined to see me as his reason for declining that he never would see another British officer of his own free will.

He eventually met me in his own country, and a short time ago wrote to say that, if I guaranteed his safety, he would come into our post at Sulek and meet me there. I gave him the required guarantee, and went to Sulek to meet him. On arrival I found that Mahomed Saleh was seriously ill. I ascertained this to be genuine. I consulted the doctor, and sent him a letter giving him medical advice. He has now recovered, and appears to be intensely grateful. He has asked me to meet him after he returns to Sulek.

At I have shown sufficient grounds for my belief that:-

- (1) The Kotabis are not really dependents of the Amir at all.
- (2) That any arrangements we make in the direction of friendly relations with them will ultimately greatly benefit the Amir of Dthala.
- (3) That even supposing the Kotabis to be dependents of the Amir, we cannot do breach of faith with him in making an arrangement by which the safety of his principal trade route, which he is by Treaty bound to protect, but which he has utterly failed to do, will be, as far as can be anticipated, assured.
- (4) That the Amir's own attitude towards his Treaty and Agreements with us has been such as to forfeit all claim to consideration in a matter the result of which can only be to benefit all parties concerned.
- (5) That the Kotabi Sheikh is a factor to be very seriously considered, it being remembered that the Yaffai have it indelibly fixed in their minds that sooner or later we mean to invade their country.
- (6) That for the first time since the punitive expedition against the Kotabis, Mahomed Saleh is willing and anxious to treat.

7. I cannot help thinking that we have made two great mistakes in this part of the country, mistakes which, unless rectified at a very early date, are likely to cause us very great trouble and expense.

(a.) We forced the Amir of Dthala on the Kotabis. Left to himself, much as he might have desired to do so, he would never have been rash enough to attempt to actively assert and exercise his suzerainty.

The Kotabis were the very last people with whom we ought to have interfered in this manner, influential as their Sheikh is with the Yaffai, and situated as they are in a commanding position on the main route between Aden and Dthala on our lines of communication.

(b.) The Kotabis will never acknowledge the suzerainty of the Amir of Dthala. They know him too well.

Unfortunately, what we have done we cannot undo, or it would encourage other tribes to break out in order to get us to redress their grievances.

The point can, however, with ease be glossed over.

(c.) We deprive the Kotabis of the dues which had been levied by them on the Habeshian before our arrival and gave them nothing in return.

With reference to my belief that the Amir was at the bottom of the Kotabi rising, I have just come across a letter from Major Pullen, Royal Garrison Artillery, dated Nohat Dakim, the 28th September, 1903, i.e., just before the rising, addressed to General Matland, in which the following passage occurs:-

Captain Lloyd-Jones tells me from Sulek that the Kotabis fired on a house in which the Alawi was staying on the night of the 26th, but did no damage. He also tells me that the Kotabis are again restless because the Amir had promised to get permission for them to collect taxes once more, but now finds he is unable to carry out this engagement as you do not approve of such a course."

I have no doubt whatever of the accuracy of Captain Lloyd-Jones' information on this point, as it agrees with the result of my inquiries in the same direction.

The result is that we are endangering the peace of the country and the safety of the trade routes from a feeling of consideration for the Amir, as to a point in which he has himself never insisted, and on which, were we to withdraw, he would be the first to give way.

8. My proposals, then, are as follows:-

(1) The suzerainty of the Amir having once been forced on the Kotabis, although only in name, cannot now be dropped. It can, however, be minimized.

(2) Mahomed Saleh to receive a monthly stipend of 50 dollars, his claim to the right of levying dues being in no way recognized, but in compensation for the loss of a source of income (about, I think, 100 dollars per mensem) which undoubtedly existed before our arrival and after it, i.e., till August 1903.

I would not, however, suggest that we bind ourselves to pay the stipend in perpetuity, but would word the clause to this effect.

"So long as the stipend of 50 dollars per mensem is paid by Government to Mahomed Saleh" to engage not to raise the question of dues, nor to allow (the) tribes to raise on their behalf."

If he proves unable to do so, it supports my belief that our Treaty with the Amir of Dthala can then, if necessary, be modified.

If he proves unable to do so, it supports my belief that our Treaty with the Amir of Dthala can then, if necessary, be modified. I disorder on the road arising from the attempts of the Kotabis to levy dues that this clause was mainly inserted.

Properly treated, I believe that the Kotabis would prove to be our best friends in this part of the country, and that through Mahomed Saleh our difficulties in both Upper and Lower Yaffai in the future may be very greatly diminished.

9. If Mahomed Saleh is granted a stipend, some of the other Radfan tribes in the immediate neighbourhood of the direct road from Nohat to Dthala will also ask for stipends.

I propose that such be granted, terminable at our pleasure, to the following:-

Hijab
Dhambari

I shall be glad if this matter can be settled at as early a date as can possibly be. It is a matter of great importance, and one which will have far-reaching consequences along the whole of the lines of communication from Nohat Dakim to Dthala.

The only possible alternative to my suggestion that I can see is to be continually prepared to send out a force to punish any tribes which may give trouble on the trade routes. This, from every point of view, is extremely undesirable, until at least we have tried the effects of the policy which I now propose.

Inclosure 5 in No. 133.

Government of Bombay to Major-General Munro.

(Telegraphic.)

Mahabulnagar, November 21, 1904.

YOL R letter dated the 5th November. Treaty should be signed before Amir leaves Aden.

Inclosure 6 in No. 133.

Government of Bombay to Major-General Mason

(Confidential.)

Bombay Castle, November 25, 1904

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your Memorandum dated the 3th November, 1904, forwarding copy of a letter dated the 29th October, 1904, from Major W. Merewether, the Political Officer, Dhala, on the subject of a Treaty with the Amir of Dhala.

2. You have already been directed in my telegram dated the 21st November, 1904, to sign the Treaty; and I am now to communicate the observations which follow upon the report on the affairs of Dhala. Major Merewether's full report has had the careful attention of the Governor in Council. The considerations urged by the Political Officer are, in short, that the Amir of Dhala—

- (1.) is unworthy of trust;
- (2.) is unpopular with his people;
- (3.) has no means of giving effect to the Treaty; and
- (4.) has evaded former Treaty obligations.

Major Merewether's report is full of evidence of the danger involved in what seems to him the mistake Government have made in treating the Amir as subordinate to the Amir of Dhala.

3. It should be explained to the Political Officer that the Amir is, whatever his personal characteristics may be, the *de facto* head of the "tribesmen, subjects, and dependents" of Dhala; and it is with him in that capacity, and so long as he is recognized as such, that the British Government have entered upon the Treaty. Our obligations under the Treaty hold so long as he fulfils his to our satisfaction, and if he is unable, in spite of Major Merewether's earnest co-operation with him, to fulfil them, or if he ceases to occupy the position in which Government deal with him, the Governor in Council will no longer be bound to pay the stipend.

4. It is necessary for recognizing the existing situation in Arabia. The Amir of Dhala, like other Sherifs, is the ruler recognized by his tribesmen, and must be recognized by us and treated by the Political Officer with due respect as such. The Political Officer seems disposed, on the strength of information which appears to emanate always from the same unspecified quarter, to draw the inference that the Amir is

is of course q
apply to all Sherifs of all tribes, and

Major Merewether seems indeed to have taken great pains to acquaint himself with the political situation, but the Governor in Council thinks it is advisable to caution him not to permit intelligence, implicating the Amir's good faith, to interfere with his continued dealings—friendly, direct, constant, and candid—with the Amir.

5. In conclusion, I am directed to point out how necessary it is to impress upon the Political Officer that he should not expect impossible standards of conduct from the Arab chiefs. The influence hostile to the Amir which Major Merewether draws into from the time of the Kaum Mikan's raid. The sources of his information are clearly indicated, and upon those depend the values to be placed upon his opinions. His Excellency the Governor in Council is of opinion that the Resident, the Political Officer should accord every possible courtesy and consideration to these Chiefs, who after all are rulers to their own countrymen, and should endeavour to obtain as close a personal influence over them as is possible. An attitude on the part of the Political Officer towards the Chiefs similar to that adopted by the late Captain Warranford is essential. He must recognize their moral weaknesses, while according full respect to their local importance, and endeavour, by encouraging frequent and direct intercourse, to influence them for the prevention of trouble.

15

Inclosure 7 in No. 133.

Government of Bombay to Government of India

Bombay Castle, December 19, 1904

WITH reference to Foreign Department letter, dated the 17th October, 1904,* inclosing a copy of a despatch, dated the 23rd September, 1904,† from His Majesty's Secretary of State for India, approving of a draft of a revised Treaty with the Amir of Dhala, I am directed to forward herewith, in triplicate, for ratification by the Government of India, the new Treaty which was concluded with the Amir on the 28th November, 1904, and which embodies the modifications suggested by His Majesty's Secretary of State.

2. I am at the same time to inclose extract paragraph 2 of Major-General Mason's forwarding letter, dated the 3rd December, 1904, and to request that the Government of India may be moved to sanction, as recommended therein, the issue, free of payment, of twenty-five rifles to the Amir wherewith to arm twenty-five out of the fifty men referred to in Article IX of the Treaty.

Inclosure 8 in No. 133.

Major-General Mason to Government of Bombay

Extract

Aden, December 3, 1904.

3. ON the Treaty being read out to the Amir, he complained that the proposed stipend of 100 dollars per mensem, and the farther monthly subsidy of 100 dollars for the maintenance of a force of fifty men, were small compared with the responsibilities to be undertaken by him. He also demurred at first to the separation of the stipend a Government, but he pleaded that at least he should be given the rifles wherewith to arm the fifty men, and also two small cannons. The request for the latter I am not disposed to recommend, as it is not usual for Government to present the Chiefs with cannon. But as to the rifles, we might perhaps give the Amir half the number required, though considering the benefits he has reaped by the demarcation of the frontier and the enhanced stipend and additional subsidy now proposed to be given, he should not expect further assistance from Government.

Inclosure 9 in No. 133.

Treaty with the Amir of Dhala.

THE British Government and the Amir Shalf-bin-Sef-bin-Abdul Hadi bin-Hussein, the Ruler of Dhala and all its dependencies, having determined to firmly establish the relations of peace and friendship so long existing between them

The British Government have named and appointed Major-General Henry Mason, Political Resident at Aden, to conclude a Treaty for this purpose.

The said Major-General Henry Mason Mason and the Amir Shalf-bin-Sef-bin-

L

There shall be peace and friendship between the British Government and all the tribesmen, subjects, and dependents of the Amir of Dhala. The subjects of the British and the people of Dhala and its dependencies shall be free to enter the territories of the other, they shall not be molested, but shall be treated with respect at all times and at all places. The said Amir of Dhala and other notable persons shall visit Aden when they please. They shall be treated with respect, and be given passes to carry arms.

* In India Office of November 1904.

† Ibid.

II

In compliance with the wish of the aforesaid Amir Shaif-bin-Sef-bin Abdul Hadi-bin-Hasan, the British Government hereby undertake to extend the territory of Dthala and all its dependencies the gracious favour and protection of His Majesty the King, Emperor

III

The said Amir Shaif-bin-Sef-bin Abdul Hadi-bin-Hasan hereby agrees, and promises on behalf of himself, his heirs, and successors, and the whole of the tribesmen, subjects, and dependents under his jurisdiction, to refrain from entering into any correspondence, agreement, or Treaty with any foreign nation or Power, and to abstain from any attempt by any other Power to interfere with the territory of Dthala or any of its dependencies.

IV

The said Amir Shaif-bin-Sef-bin Abdul Hadi-bin-Hasan hereby binds himself, and his heirs and successors for ever, that they will not cede, sell, mortgage, lease, hire, or give, or otherwise dispose of the territory of Dthala and its dependencies, or any other part of the same, at any time to any Power other than the British Government.

V

The said Amir Shaif-bin-Sef-bin Abdul Hadi-bin-Hasan further promises on behalf of himself, his heirs, and successors, and all his tribesmen, subjects, and dependents, that he will keep open the roads in the territory of Dthala and its dependencies, and the roads leading to and from the same, for the purpose of trade, or returning therefrom.

VI

The said Amir Shaif-bin-Sef-bin Abdul Hadi-bin-Hasan also engages, on behalf of himself, his heirs, and successors, and all his tribesmen, subjects, and dependents, to maintain the boundary which has been demarcated by the joint British and Turkish Commission, and to protect the boundary pillars.

VII

Further, the said Amir Shaif-bin-Sef-bin Abdul Hadi-bin-Hasan undertakes, on behalf of himself, his heirs, and successors, to maintain order within the boundary of the territories of Dthala and its dependencies, and to restrain his tribesmen, subjects, and dependents from creating disturbances either in his own territory or in the country beyond the boundary-line, and from interfering with the tribes who are subjects of the Turkish Government.

VIII

In consideration of these undertakings and engagements, the British Government agree to pay to the said Amir Shaif-bin-Sef-bin Abdul Hadi-bin-Hasan, and to his successor or successors, a monthly sum of 100 dollars, the half of which is 50 dollars.

IX

To assist him in carrying out the obligations imposed by this Treaty, the said Amir, on the 21st of October, 1903, was furnished with a force of fifty men, or such less number as the Resident may agree to. So long as this force is

maintained in a state of efficiency to the satisfaction of the Resident, the British Government agree to pay to the said Amir Shaif bin-Sef-bin Abdul Hadi-bin-Hasan, and to his successor or successors, a monthly sum of 100 dollars, the half of which is 50 dollars—this subsidy to be in addition to that mentioned in Article VIII.

X

The above Treaty shall have effect from this date. In witness thereof the Undersigned have affixed their signatures or seals at Aden this 28th day of November, 1904.

(Signed) H. M. MASON, Major-General,
Resident in Aden

Witnesses
(Signed) J. DAVIS, Lieutenant-Colonel,
First Assistant-Resident in Aden
ALI JAFFAR, Head Interpreter

(Signed) CURZON,
Viceroy and Governor-General of India.

This Treaty was ratified by the Viceroy and Governor-General of India in Council at Fort William on the 8th day of February, A.D. 1905.

(Signed) S. M. FRASER,
Officiating Secretary to the Government of India
in the Foreign Department.

Inclosure 10 in No. 133

Government of India to Government of Bombay

Sir,
I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letters relating to the revised Treaty which was concluded with the Amir of Dthala on the 28th November, 1904.
2. The Treaty has been ratified by the Viceroy and Governor-General in Council, and two out of the three counterparts received are returned herewith, one for delivery to the Amir, and the other for record by the Government of Bombay. The third has been retained for deposit in the archives of the Foreign Department of the Government of India.
3. With reference to paragraph 2 of the second of your letters under acknowledgment, I am to convey sanction to the issue, free of payment, of twenty-five rifles to the Amir.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. SOMERS COCKS,
Assistant Secretary to the Government of India

Inclosure 11 in No. 133.

Mr. Brodick to Government of India

My Lord,
I HAVE received and considered your Excellency's despatch, Secret, dated 11th October, 1904, in relation to the proposed grant of a stipend to the Amir of Dthala, Shaif bin-Sef bin Abdul Hadi bin-Hasan, by Mr. Merewether, dated the 29th October, 1904. I observe that the Political Officer, Dthala, recommends the grant of a stipend to the Amir, and that the Amir has undertaken not to raise the question of the stipend to the Government of India. I am to express my views to the Government upon these proposals.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ST. JOHN BRODRICK

No. 134.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received April 19)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr Secretary Brodrick, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosures in a letter from the Foreign Secretary, Calcutta, dated the 23rd ultimo, relative to Abu Mass Island.

India Office, April 18, 1905.

Inclosure in No. 134

Extract from the Diary of the Persian Gulf Political Residence for the week ending February 19, 1905.

Bushire, February 10.—The Resident recently asked the Residency Agent on the Arab Coast to warn the Chief of Shargah and his uncle, Sheikh Salem, against entering into any agreement with M. R. Wonekhaus, of the German trading firm, for leasing the red oxide mines on Abu Musa. The Agent now reports that the Sheikhs have assured him that they will do nothing without the Resident's knowledge.

No. 135

Telegram from Turkish Commandant at Bagdad.—(Communicated by Musurus Pascha, April 19, 1905)

BAHREIN, situé en face du district de Koutir, dans le Sandjak de Nedjd, fait partie de l'Empire Ottoman. Néanmoins, le Gouvernement Britannique a conclu avec des Cheikhs de ce territoire des Arrangements en vertu desquels il a promis de les protéger, ainsi que leurs navires, à la condition qu'ils lui cédèrent le tiers du produit de la pêche. En ces derniers temps un bâtiment Anglais est arrivé à Bahrein l'occasion de l'incident survenu entre un Européen et les hommes d'Ah, neveu du Cheikh Issa, fils du Khalifa Hakem, de ladite localité, l'autorité à bord a réprimandé, en usant de violence, les présumés coupables et les a obligés de payer une amende de 1000 rouspias. Tout récemment les Anglais ont amené un bateau spécial pour draguer le long des côtes et faciliter ainsi à leurs navires l'accès du pays. Ils ont demandé, en outre, qu'on leur livrât Ah, fils d'Ahmed, et Jémi Mehsi Namani, qui s'étaient réfugiés chez Djaneuanni, Calmaran et Cheikh de Koutir.

Comme le Cheikh Issa a refusé de livrer ces derniers, ils ont emprisonné le fils du Cheikh et le juge lui-même, à bord d'un bâtiment de guerre, ont démoli la maison de ce dernier, qu'il possédait, ses chevaux et ses navires, au Cheikh Moubareck à Kuwait. Comme celui-ci ne les a pas acceptés, on les a vendus au marché de cette ville. Ils ont occupé militairement la ville de Mouamet, capitale de Bahrein, et prenant possession des Douanes, ils ont procédé à la perception des droits de pêche.

A la suite de cet incident, le Cheikh Issa, qui prétendait être indépendant, se déclare maintenant sujet de l'Empire Ottoman. Bien que le Gouvernement Britannique déclare considérer indépendant le susdit Cheikh, il a pris possession des Douanes et occupe militairement le pays.

No. 136

Foreign Office to India Office

Sir,

Foreign Office, April 19, 1905.

I AM directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 11th instant, forwarding a despatch from the Government of India, in which proposals are made for further action by His Majesty's Government with a view to obtaining the evacuation of Bahuan Island by the Turkish troops now stationed there.

In reply I am to inclose, for the information of the Secretary of State for India, copies of a despatch from His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople,* touching upon this question, and of Lord Lansdowne's reply,† which had been sent before your letter of the 11th instant was received.

Mr. Brodrick will observe that Lord Lansdowne has indicated the expediency of action practically identical with that suggested in the despatch from the Government of India. In view, however, of the fact that the Aden frontier question was not yet finally settled, His Lordship thought it desirable to give his Excellency full discretion as to making a representation immediately or deferring it for the moment, and he would prefer to await the Ambassador's opinion on this point before sending definite instructions.

A copy of your letter will be sent to Sir N. O'Connor by the first opportunity.

I am, &c.
(Signed) A. GODLEY.

No. 137.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received April 21)

(No. 72.)

(Telegram No. P)

Constantinople, April 21, 1905

WITH reference to your telegram No. 40 of the 17th instant respecting the Aden

"Your telegram No. 16 of the 18th April, repeating to me the telegram from the Government of India. Today the *procès-verbal* to the following effect was signed by Ottoman Commissioner—

"In the first place, the territory to the north of and adjoining the Marut boundary

"Yaffa to have Nawa-Rubesten-Ishani. Finally, we are to have Aulaki as well

In view of the fact that sovereignty over Behan-al-Karab is claimed by Aulaki, Beda is the only serious gap. But as is shown on map inclosed in our No. 333 of the 1st October, 1903, it lies mainly south of true north-east line

Constantinople as soon as the pillars are erected, the sixty miles of the Subahi frontier being also satisfactorily settled and signed."

No. 138

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received April 22.)

Sir,

India Office, April 19, 1905.

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 16th instant, forwarding a despatch from the Government of India, in which proposals are made for further action by His Majesty's Government with a view to obtaining the evacuation of Bahuan Island by the Turkish troops now stationed there.

I am, &c.
(Signed) A. GODLEY.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Connor

(No. 50.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, April 25, 1905.

PLEASE convey to Mr. Fitzmaurice my entire approval. His report has been received with great satisfaction, and your views as to his conduct of the negotiations, as reported in your telegram No. 72 of the 21st instant, are entirely shared by His Majesty's Government.

No. 140.

Sir A. Hardinge to the Marquess of Lansdowne. (Received April 24.)

(No. 57. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Tehran, March 16, 1905.

I have the honour to report in confidence to you the substance of the conversation which took place between me and the Mushir-ed-Dowleh, with whom he advised me to discuss the matter.

The Mushir-ed-Dowleh stated, in reply to my inquiries, that his own action was the result of a protest made by the Turkish Consulate at Bushire against the acquiescence of the Persian Government in the intervention of His Majesty's Consulate on behalf of a native of Koweit. I may mention that the Arab concerned was a pilot employed on a British India steamer, and that when the case, which, so far as I recollect, was one of assault, arose I prevailed on the Persian Foreign Office to instruct the Bushire authorities to allow Major Cox's intervention and exclude that of the Turkish Consul, by pointing out that the former might be justified, without

a British ship. As a consequence of this Turkish protest, the Persian Government had made inquiries by the Shah's commands of its Embassy at Constantinople, and the latter had reported that the Sublime Porte objected to natives of Koweit being treated in Persia otherwise than as Ottoman subjects. The Mushir-ed-Dowleh added that they had always been so treated in the past, that is to say, they had been subject to the criminal jurisdiction of the Persian tribunals and authorities, as neither Persia nor Turkey grant extraterritorial rights to the subjects of the other within their respective territories, but the intervention and representations of the Turkish Embassy and Consulate on their behalf had been recognized in all extra-judicial matters in which they had complaints against the Persian authorities or Persian subjects. This, it should be noted, puts Koweit in a position different from that of Afghans, who, so far as "our good offices" are allowed on their behalf, on the same footing as natives of Persia.

I explained to the Mushir-ed-Dowleh that in our view Koweit was *de facto* independent of Turkey, which had not established or maintained an effective control over the country, although the Sheikh recognized in common with most orthodox Sunnis outside Africa the religious authority of the Sultan as Caliph, and was, moreover, the owner of large estates in the Vilayet of Bassorah. On these latter grounds the Turkish Government, I believe, claimed him as its subject, much as it asserted, in the case of the Amir of Nejd, Sheikh Mubarak Ibn Sabah, however, that he was a subject of the Amir of Nejd. The Mushir-ed-Dowleh, however, claimed, and had entered into certain arrangements with His Majesty's Consulate, giving some resemblance to those made by us with other Arab Chiefs in the Persian Gulf, in virtue of which we had undertaken to extend our good offices to his subjects, when outside Koweit. If the Persian Government recognized, as it seemed to have done in their instructions to M. Waffanert, that Koweit was politically separate from and independent of Turkey, would there be any objection to allowing the Sheikh to intrust the protection of his subjects in Persia to His Majesty's Representatives, much as Swiss citizens were protected by the French Legation, or at least to recognizing such a limited intervention by us on their behalf, as we exercised under a "dastkh" of the late Shah in the case of Afghans?

The Mushir-ed-Dowleh asked what view would be taken of such a claim by us on behalf of Koweit subjects (1) in Turkey; (2) in other foreign States. Would the French Consul at Bushire, for example, admit the intervention of the Residency in a suit between a French citizen and a native of Koweit?

I said I felt certain that in Turkey the Turkish authorities would insist on treating Koweit as Ottoman subjects. Thus, however, proved nothing, as they put forward the same claim in the case of Tunisians and Algerines or at least used to do when I was at Constantinople, notwithstanding the fact that Tunis had been a French Protectorate for a quarter of a century, and Algiers a French possession for sixty years. As regards other foreign Powers, I was not aware that any opportunity had arisen for any discussion with them on the question, Koweit having no inter-

national relations with any other State, as he had supposed, for the sake of argument, were to arise with the French, the French Consul would either admit our intervention or an exchange of views would follow on the political issues at stake, similar to that now taking place between his Excellency and myself. I have since sent his Excellency a French geographical work, based on Elisée Reclus' "Géographie Universelle," which, whilst describing Bahrain as a Turkish dependency, includes Koweit among the States of "independent Arabia."

His Excellency observed that it was somewhat remarkable that no such test case as he had suggested should as yet have arisen, and that we should now for the first time last year have had occasion to intervene on behalf of Koweit. I said this seemed to me quite intelligible, as it was only within quite a recent period that Europeans other than Englishmen, had concerned themselves with the trade or politics of the Persian Gulf, or that an European Customs Administration, with its strict and precise procedure, had raised questions which in the days of the old farmers had been left to be dealt with in a much more irregular and haphazard fashion. The strict repression of the traffic in arms, in connection with which the Sheikh had complained to us of the harsh treatment of Koweit dhows by the Persian authorities, was moreover a comparatively modern feature.

The Mushir-ed-Dowleh said he could not give me an answer off hand as to the view which the Persian Government would take of my proposal, but that he would submit the whole question, which would require rather careful consideration, to the Shah, and I think it not improbable that he may consult, not the Russians, but one or two representatives less decidedly identified with opposition to our interests in the Gulf, such as those of France and Germany, before giving me a definite answer. From a Persian point of view, it is probably more desirable that Koweit subjects oppressed or robbed by the Persian authorities should be under the lethargic protection of Turkey rather than the strenuous care of a British Resident, and the Persian Government certainly regards Turkish influence in the Gulf with much less fear and distrust than it does ours. This last consideration may, however, induce it, out of prudence, to lean rather to our view than to that of Turkey, and while I think that it will hesitate for a long time to commit itself on one side or the other, I am not without hope that a working understanding may be arrived at, especially if we can get the Persians to admit, which they seem inclined to do, that Koweit is *de facto* independent.

I told the Mushir-ed-Dowleh that I thought it would be to Persia's interest to maintain good relations with Koweit, as the Sheikh was on friendly terms with the Amir of Nejd, and thus controlled the overland Persian pilgrim route from the holy cities of Irak Arabi to Medina. Koweit was, moreover, becoming every year an increasingly important commercial centre, and it would be to the advantage of the Persian Government to secure friendly treatment for Persian subjects proceeding

to the Gulf, and to the political views of the Sheikh, and the commercial interests of his subjects visiting Persia. His Excellency made a note of this last observation, and repeated that my representations would receive the most careful attention.

I have sent him the inclosed written reminder of our conversation, but have thought it better to avoid formulating in writing any views about the status of Koweit.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ARTHUR H. HARDINGE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 140.

Instructions issued by M. Naze to Belgian Customs Officials in Persian Gulf.

(Télégraphique.)

Le 10 Mars, 1905.

(a.) SUITE rapport 29 Octobre.

Vous devez, par ordre Ministère Affaires Étrangères, vous refuser correspondre avec Consul Anglais au sujet affaires concernant habitants Koweït. S'il insiste encore, écrivez-lui officiellement de s'adresser par intermédiaire Légation au Ministère des Affaires Étrangères à Téhéran.

(b.) Copie procès-verbal concernant habitants Koweïtne doivent être communiqués ni Consul Anglais ni Consul Turc.

Inclosure 2 in No. 140.

Sir A. Hardinge to the Mushir-ed-Dowleh.

Your Excellency.

Tehran, March 16, 1905.

I HAVE not thought it necessary to trouble your Excellency with a recapitulation of our conversation of yesterday's date respecting the status of Koweït Arabs in Persia, but I would beg to remind your Excellency of your promise to consider the points which I had the honour to submit to you on that occasion, and to ask you at your earliest convenience to give me a reply on them for transmission to His Majesty's Government.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) ARTHUR H. HARDINGE

No. 141.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.---(Received April 24.)

(No. 248. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, April 17, 1905.

IN obedience to the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatch No. 114 of the 11th instant, I have the honour to report as follows:—

As I anticipated that the Porte would be likely, upon my return here, to complain of the retention of the British Resident at Koweït, I asked His Majesty's Consul at Basorah to let me know whether the Turkish military station still existed on Bubian Island. Mr. Monahan replied that it did, and that there were eight soldiers and one sergeant still there.

The Porte did not, however, mention the matter to me; but, had they done so, I should have replied that, so long as they kept their soldiers on the island, contrary to the previously existing state of things, they had no right to make objections about Major Knox's appointment, nor could I discuss the question with them.

On my side, I thought it best not to make fresh representations, at all events at present, about the guard house, fearing that if I did so they might propose a bargain, and suggest that we should withdraw our Resident, and they the soldiers. I do not think this would suit us, and I should be sorry to see His Majesty's Government renounce their right to send a Resident to Koweït, as, in the existing condition of affairs, some outward sign of our predominant position at Koweït seems highly desirable.

But, apart from these considerations, and supposing that the Porte did not make such a proposal, I thought that my representations would fail to have effect unless His Majesty's Government were resolved either to induce the Sheikh of Koweït to establish a military station at the other end of the island—a step which, taking into account the shifty character and double dealings of his Highness, might require considerable persuasion—or to insist upon the removal of the Turks.

I venture to think that, while the Turkish military station is maintained on Bubian Island, we can properly refuse to give any definite assurances respecting the presence of a British Resident at Koweït, and that even if Major Knox be now withdrawn in accordance with your Lordship's assurances to Musurus Pasha, he should return at an

early date. Gradually his appointment will be regarded by the Turks as a *fait accompli*, and their refusal to withdraw their soldiers from Bubian Island will enable His Majesty's Government to consider whether at some future date it may not be advisable to check the Ottoman Government by establishing a Koweït military station on Bubian Island.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 142.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.---(Received April 24.)

(No. 252.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, April 18, 1905.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 214 of the 4th instant and to previous correspondence respecting the movements of Turkish troops, I have the honour to report that, in addition to the 3,500 sent off a month ago, 2,050 left Trebizond and Samson for Salonica on the 6th and 7th instant. Orders have been received at Trebizond for the mobilization of the Redifs to serve as reinforcements for the Yemen. Eight battalions have been called out forming the 53rd and 54th Regiments, 27th Brigade, 14th Division of the 4th Army Corps. Great difficulty is experienced in collecting the men, as the mortality in Arabia was so great that no less than half the troops returned to their homes.

Mr. Millelire reports, in a despatch from Janina, of which I inclose a copy, that the mobilization of the 17th Redif Brigade, which is to take the place of the Nizam troops destined for the Yemen, is not proceeding satisfactorily. At Argyrocastro, Janina, and Lescovic only a comparatively small number of men have responded to the call, and of 300 men who were dispatched to Metzovo a considerable number are said to have deserted on the way.

The 2nd battalion and two companies of the 1st battalion of the 21st Regiment of Nizams have embarked at Preveza for the Yemen.

The prevalent opinion here is that things are going very badly in the Yemen and that the Imperial troops are in some straits. The Porte refuses, however, either to deny or confirm the news sent by His Majesty's Vice Consul at Hodeida, of which copy was forwarded to your Lordship in my despatch No. 211 of the 15th instant; but if they had been able to deny it, the presumption is that they would not have hesitated to do so.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 142.

Acting Vice-Consul Millelire to Consul-General Graves.

(No. 11.)

M. le Consul-Général,

Janina, le 5 Avril, 1905.

L'APPEL sous les armes des Redifs de ce vilayet s'accomplit d'une manière toute laborieuse.

A Argyrocastro, on est parvenu à grande peine à réunir 300 hommes à peu près. Les Argyrocastrites sont fort mécontents et excités contre ce Vall, pour la question des Bektachis et déclarent ouvertement que tant que le Sultan laissera Osman Pacha à Janina, ils ne donneront aucun appui à son Gouvernement. A peine appelés sous les armes, les Argyrocastrites présentèrent la question des arrières qui leur sont dus de l'année dernière, disant qu'ils ne se rendraient pas sous le drapeau avant d'avoir reçu leur argent jusqu'au dernier sou. Le Gouvernement les paya sans retard, mais malgré cela, comme dis-je plus haut, 300 à peu près prirent les armes, et les autres, sans se soucier de rien, retournèrent chez eux. Ces 300 arrivèrent l'autre jour dans notre ville, et furent immédiatement envoyés à Metzovo; durant le trajet bon nombre d'eux désertèrent avec armes et bagage.

Il paraît que l'autorité militaire ait pris d'autres dispositions sur la destination

des bataillons des Redifs, en créant un système mixte de compagnies, mais jusqu'à présent rien n'a été décidé.

Les 200 Redifs du bataillon de Janina, réunis dans notre ville et déjà partis pour Philippades, firent comme ceux d'Argyrocastro: prétendirent et obtinrent les arrières, et un certain nombre d'entre eux retournèrent dans leurs villages à Lescovic; malgré tous les efforts de l'autorité, cinquante personnes à peine se présentèrent à l'appel. A Premeti, personne ne fit acte de présence. A Vallona, du peu de Redifs qui s'étaient réunis, le Gouvernement, pour leur éviter la fatigue de se rendre à pied à Prevesa, avait voulu les envoyer par mer à bord d'un bateau de la Mahsoussa, mais les Valloniotes, fourbes comme des Albanais qu'ils sont, dans la peur d'être dirigés pour le Yémen, répondirent que, n'étant pas habitués à la mer, ils préférèrent se rendre par terre à Prevesa. Cependant, jusqu'à présent personne n'est encore arrivée.

Il n'est pas encore possible de faire des pronostics, mais tout fait voir que la population Musulmane est fort mécontente et lasse de cet état de choses, et si la mobilisation entière des six bataillons des Redifs aura lieu, ce sera le fruit d'un travail lent et laborieux.

A Prevesa arrivèrent quatre bateaux de la Mahsoussa, deux desquels embarquèrent le second bataillon et deux compagnies du premier bataillon du 21^e Régiment de Nizams, et partirent pour le Yémen; les deux autres bateaux attendront l'arrivée des autres bataillons.

Veillez, &c.
(Signé) E. MILLELIER.

No. 143.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received April 26.)

(No. 258.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, April 18, 1905.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 179 of the 21st ultimo, reporting that reforms in the administration of the Yemen were under contemplation, I have the honour to state that I now learn that the Council of Ministers have drawn up a report dealing with the despatch of a Reform Commission to the Yemen, and with proposals for its division into four vilayets, the formation of an Army Corps, and of a police and gendarmerie force of natives of the province.

Shakir Pasha, now Vali of Uscub, has been appointed President of the Commission. He has an excellent record during his tenure of that post, and also while he held a similar position at Scutari in Albania, and his departure is much to be regretted.

The other members of the Commission are—Mohamed Reschid Pasha, ex-Mutesarrif of Mouah, civil member; Kemal Effendi, Naib of Sana'a, religious member; and Ali Amiri Effendi, ex-Defterdar of Aleppo, financial member. The Commission is to study such questions as the opening of schools, the building of roads, the development of agriculture, and the recruiting of an Army Corps and of a gendarmerie force from amongst the native population, and is authorized to correspond with the various Ministers on these subjects.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. B. O'CONNOR.

No. 144.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received April 26.)

(No. 259.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, April 18, 1905.

WITH reference to my immediately preceding despatch, in which I reported that Shakir Pasha, the Vali of Kossovo, has been appointed President of the Commission of Reforms for the Yemen, I have the honour to state that Mahmoud Shefkeh Pasha, a member of the Committee of Experiments at the arsenal of Tophane, has been selected

to succeed him. Mahmoud Shefkeh is a very little-known official, and I have not yet been able to learn much as to his character and antecedents.

His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Uscub considers that the removal of Shakir Pasha is much to be regretted, but I do not think that this is a case in which it would be possible for me to interfere to obtain his retention.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. B. O'CONNOR.

No. 145.

M. Geoffroy to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received April 28.)

M. le Marquis,

Ambassade de France, Londres, le 28 Avril, 1905.

EN constatant, par une lettre du 22 Mars à son Excellence M. Cambon, que les Gouvernements Anglais et Français s'étaient mis d'accord pour admettre l'emploi simultané des langues Anglaise et Française, par le Tribunal de La Haye dans l'arbitrage Mascatai, votre Seigneurie a proposé que cette décision soit notifiée de concert par les deux Gouvernements au Tribunal Arbitral. Elle a demandé en même temps si cette manière d'agir conviendrait au Gouvernement de la République.

Je suis chargé par mon Gouvernement de faire savoir à votre Seigneurie qu'il ne voit que des avantages à ce qu'il soit ainsi procédé. Il estime, d'ailleurs, que le Bureau International de la Cour de La Haye devrait être pris comme intermédiaire de la notification à faire aux Arbitres des dispositions des deux Parties.

Veillez, &c.
(Signé) GEOFFROY.

No. 146.

Sir N. O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received April 26.)

(No. 76.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Constantinople, April 28, 1905.

REBELLION in the Yemen.

General situation is critical, Syrian troops being in state of mutiny. Sanaa has surrendered to Iman and Menakha has been invested.

No. 147.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir H. Howard.

(No. 33.)

Sir

Foreign Office, April 28, 1905.

I TRANSMIT to you herewith ten copies of the Counter-Case on behalf of His Majesty's Government in the pending arbitration with the Government of the French Republic in regard to the grant of the French flag to Muscat dhows.*

One of these copies should be retained for your information, and the remainder communicated on the 1st May to the Permanent Bureau. Of these nine copies, five are intended for the use of the French Government, one for the archives of the Bureau, and the remaining three for transmission respectively to each of the two Arbitrators and to the Umpire when appointed.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

* Muscat Counter-Case.

No. 148.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir H. Howard.

(No. 81.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, April 29, 1905.

I TRANSMIT herewith certified copies of correspondence, as marked in the margin,* with the French Ambassador at this Court in regard to an objection raised by the French Government to the introduction of the name of the Sultan of Muscat in the British Case as one of the parties in the Muscat Dhow Arbitration.

I request that you will communicate the papers to the Permanent Bureau at The Hague. Four copies of each document are inclosed, and are intended, one for each of the two Arbitrators, one for the Umpire when appointed, and the fourth for the archives of the Permanent Bureau.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

* See Part I, Nos. 75, 76, and 77, and Nos. 82, 83, and 84.

CONFIDENTIAL.

(8482.)

PART II.

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING THE

AFFAIRS OF ARABIA.

March and April 1905.